

**Marge's Auction:
Art, Ashtrays,
And St. Bernards**

by Linda Vaccariello

**How I Beat
Winter With a Car
And a Dream**

by Ian Aldrich

**'One' Really
Wants To Be a
Singular Sensation**

by Donna Covrett

**A Romantic
Weekend at
Murphin Ridge**

by Jenny Wohlfarth

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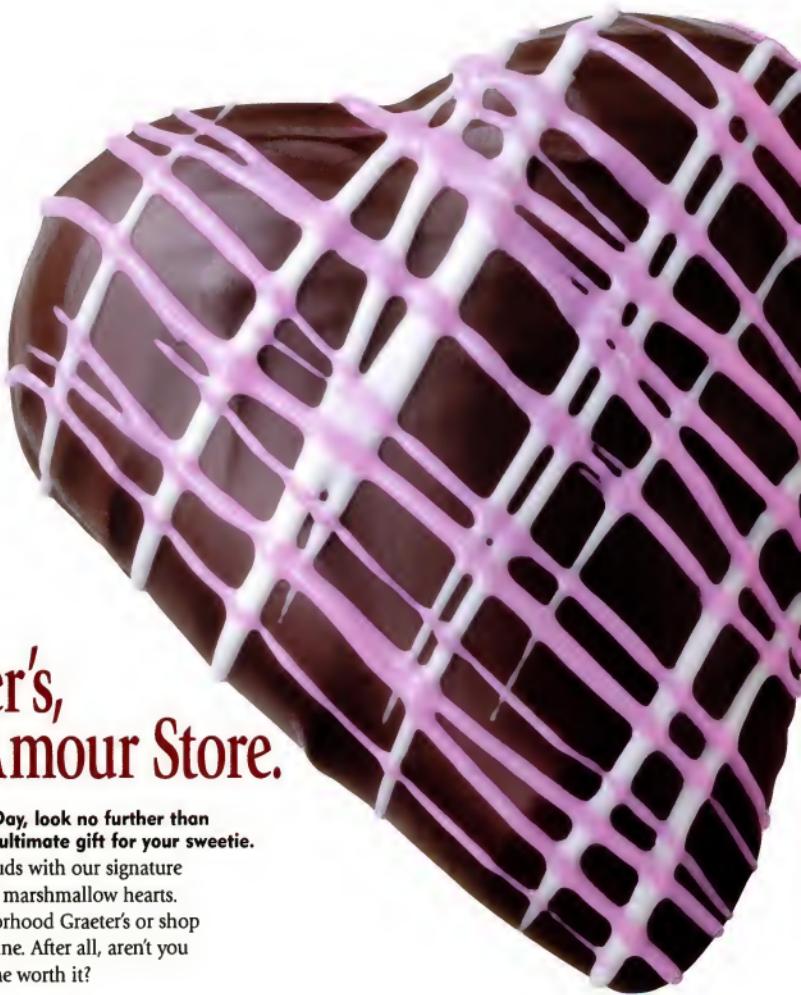
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COVER STORY

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BIG DEAL

Tired of paying retail? We tell you how to score bargains galore on all kinds of great stuff: Nike drivers, Pottery Barn furniture, Vera Wang wedding gowns, custom-tailored suits, and more.

BY AMANDA BOYD,
ALYSSA BRANDT,
KATHLEEN DOANE,
KATHERINE LOUISE, AND
LINDA VACCARIELLO

94

SURVIVAL
OF THE WARMEST

In an attempt to outsmart winter's chill, our fearless reporter spent an entire day in his car—eating ribs, dropping off the dry cleaning, even taking his wife to a movie. Let's just say he did it for science.

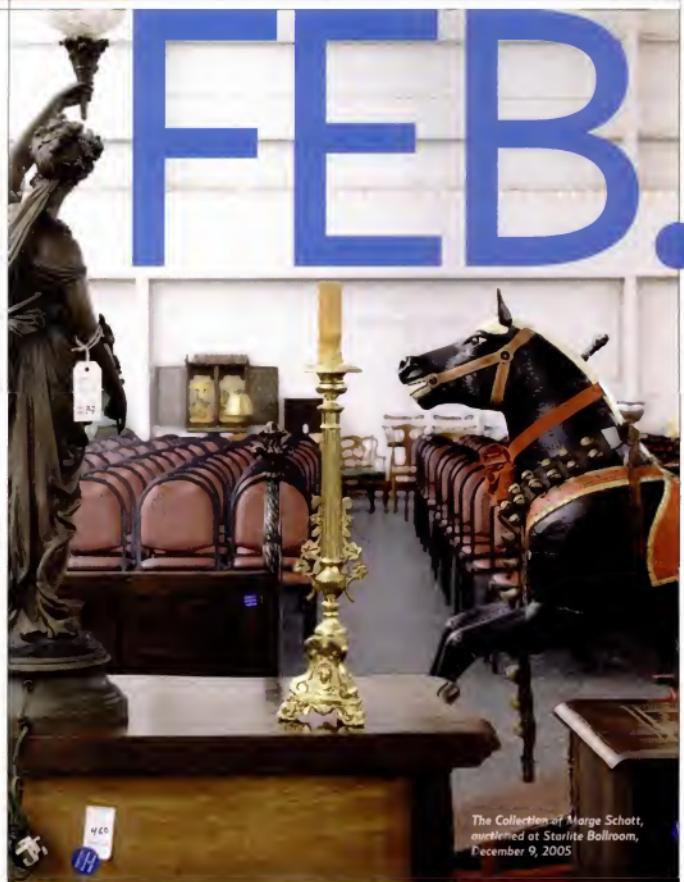
BY IAN ALDRICH

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GORDON BAER
RETROSPECTIVE

Over a 47-year career, this photographer's images have appeared in local papers and national magazines. Here, he looks back on some of his favorite shots.

BY KATHLEEN DOANE



90 The Things She Left Behind

Marge Schott was larger-than-life. Naturally, buyers at her estate auction looked for her in every item on the block, from sterling silver tea sets to antique furniture. And lest we forget, St. Bernards.

BY LINDA VACCARIELLO



QUEEN CITY

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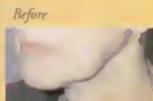
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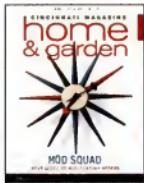
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february

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTIONS



Home & Garden: Mid-century Modern..... page 109

What's old is new again, especially when it comes to art, architecture and home décor from the 1950s. We explore the impact of mid-century Modern on local life, from funky furnishings to the best buys on mid-century antiques.

Go Red for Women..... after page 48

Women from all over CincinnatiUSA, from City Hall to area hospitals, donned their finest reds to make a stunning portrait and an important point about the seriousness of heart disease among women. Our American Heart Association section also features moving profiles of survivors and critical health information.

The Lindner Center Quarterly Report..... after page 48

Explore the impact of hormone replacement therapy on women's heart health in this special report featuring nationally recognized authority Dr. Charles Glueck and ophthalmologist Dr. Robert K. Hutchins.

Greater Cincinnati Auto Expo..... after page 156

Top dealers roll out the best new cars and familiar favorites at this annual show downtown. Read our guide to the show and find out how auto dealers in the region help drive the economy.



SUBSCRIBER BONUS! Social Datebook

Subscribers find our third annual Social Datebook, a listing of charitable events throughout CincinnatiUSA, with this month's issue. We've compiled a list of more than 110 great events to keep you busy throughout the year, plus we'll continually update event information online at www.cincinnatimagazine.com.

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A few months before I vacated Cincinnati for New York, in 1990, I bought a Super-8 movie camera at a thrift shop in Eavendale. At the time, barely a year out of college and still living at home with my parents, I was something of a thrift store devotee. Things were cheap, of course, but there was also the serendipity factor; you never knew what minor treasure you might dig up.

The Super-8 wasn't my first great find. That honor goes to the natty black trench coat I bought for less than five dollars at Norwood Thrift back in the early-'80s, when I was in high school and black trench coats were all the rage among the young and self-consciously disaffected. Blame it on *Diner* and my obsession with alt-rock, but I loved that trench coat enough to drag it with me wherever I went—to college, then back home, then off to New York, and eventually Santa Fe, where my wife, after years of not-so-gentle hints, finally demanded that I get rid of it. I didn't have the heart to throw it out; it wasn't in bad shape and I'd probably spent 20 times the original price getting various tears fixed, buttons stitched, and the iridescent gold lining refurbished. So I stuck it in a pile of old clothes and dropped it off at a Salvation Army warehouse, where it re-entered the thrift slipstream.

This month's cover story guides you to the surprising number of resources we have around here for finding great stuff cheap. And I'm not just talking about thrift stores. In the hunt for a couple of Barcelona chairs to add the right modern touch to your living room? Try the Design Within Reach warehouse sale. Need a new set of irons to resuscitate your golf game? Head over to Second Swing in Springfield. Looking for a little cultural enrichment? Learn to play the bagpipes—for free!—with the help of the experts at Cincinnati Caledonian Pipes and Drums. Half of the fun in uncovering a bargain is the hunt itself; the other half is getting to flaunt your find. It's somehow therapeutic to know that that purse or cool pair of jeans or Le Creuset pot didn't cost an arm and a leg, it just looks like it did.

As for my old Super-8, I think it cost me a dollar. But I'm not going to let it suffer the same fate as my trench coat. I couldn't. The thing literally holds memories for me. Over the years, it's recorded a series of random but nevertheless important junctures in my life. St. Alphonzo's Pancake Breakfast up in Oxford in 1989 (or was that 1990?). The day my friends pitched in to help me move out of my grim apartment building in Manhattan (the one where the brothel caught fire one night) and into a much better situation in Hoboken. And most of all, the "silent comedy" I made a few days before I moved to New York, which consisted mainly of an endless shot of my sister sitting on an old desk chair and being towed around the neighborhood behind my friend Dave's VW microbus. It wasn't even that funny at the time, but it captures a gloriously simple period in my life that I'll never get back to—except for those three minutes when I'm able to run it through the projector and smile. ©



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Amanda Boyd



"I've been trained to be a bargain hunter from a very young age," says Deputy Editor **AMANDA BOYD**, who edited and wrote part of our cover story "Big Deal: How to Find the Best Bargains on Everything" (page 78). No store is above a sale, which is why she urges deal-seekers to "go everywhere." Case in point: scoring Frette bath sheets, which would regularly retail for \$80, for \$6 at Gabriel Brothers. Any final words of wisdom? "You would be very surprised what you can find and where you can find it," she says.

In his 47 years shooting for everyone from *The Cincinnati Post* to *Time*, **GORDON BAER** has never been asked to select his favorite photos. After the photographs were printed in a newspaper or hung on someone's wall, he rarely gave them much thought. But the photography retrospective that starts on page 98 let Baer reminisce. "Working on this brought back memories," he says. "It gave me a chance to experience the photos in a way that I hadn't before."

For Associate Editor **AIESHA D. LITTLE** and Assistant Art Director **OBIE OBENCHAIN**, redesigning the magazine's calendar section was all about modernity. "Changing the way calendar information is presented gives us the opportunity to refresh this part of the magazine," says Little. The pair spent a few months revising the section before deciding on the image-driven format (page 35). "We really wanted to add more pictures and graphics," says Obenchain. "I hope readers will enjoy paging through the new section and will find the listings more accessible."

Before illustrating "Survival of the Warmest" (page 94), **EBEN SORKIN**'s work was confined to art for video game magazines. "Probably the best

thing about this assignment was working in the classic-pixely-retro game style," says Sorkin. "It was tricky to try to get a sense of both the local buildings and geography." For help, Sorkin naturally turned to the Internet, which helped him visualize the Queen City and bring the essay to life.

Gordon Baer



Eben Sorkin



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Fat Praise for Slims

Thanks and congratulations to Alyssa Brandt for the profile of Slims and its creator, "cook, manager, bookkeeper, and farmer," Patrick McCafferty ("St. Patrick," November). How fortunate that McCafferty landed here and put together his vision of a restaurant, complete with open kitchen, communal tables, and real comfortable food. And the fact that he purchases all of his ingredients within a five-mile radius of Slims, rather than from some far-flung purveyors, is further testament to the city's good fortune. Dubbing the singular McCafferty "St. Patrick" would seem to create a tough burden for a writer, but Brandt's deft writing, along with Ryan Kurtz's photographs, captured the sense of the man.

DEBORAH GINOCCIO
North Avondale

Ballad of the Lost Café

We always enjoy reading *Intersection* in every issue of *Cincinnati Magazine*. We both have lived in Cincinnati for many years and always seem to have "been there" each time an intersection is featured. Well, in the November issue, Mary Beth Bennett must have been looking the other way at Lincoln Avenue and Glendale-Milford Road in Camp Dennison. Both of us often visit the Camp Dennison Café on the corner, and we can only speak kindly about breakfast, lunch, and gourmet dinners! How in the world could Mary Beth have missed this colorful corner fixture?

GEORGE AND PATRICIA QUIGLEY
Silverton

Family Matters

I would like to express my profound disappointment with the story you published about my friend, Dr. Henry Heimlich ("The Heimlich Maneuvers," December). I fail to see the need to exploit this family issue for the sake of selling a few magazines. You ask if Dr. Heimlich's legacy is secure. Consider: The Heimlich Maneuver revolutionized the treatment of choking and the Heimlich Chest Drain Valve has saved the lives of countless soldiers. Dr. Heimlich is a pioneer. Time and again he has bucked conventional wisdom and eventually been proven right. The Heimlich Maneuver was controversial for many years. Yet Dr. Heimlich prevailed, and today thousands of lives around the world have been saved

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because of this simple, effective emergency procedure. Yes, Dr. Heimlich's legacy is secure.

RONALD SACHER, M.D.
Director, Haworth Blood Center
Professor, Internal Medicine and Pathology
University of Cincinnati Medical Center

I just finished your article on the Heimlichs, and I felt compelled to write. I simply could not put the magazine down until I finished the entire fascinating, bizarre tale. You did a great job of weaving together many disparate perspectives, asking critical questions, yet not taking a side. Congratulations on a story well-told. We relocated to St. Louis this past summer. I eagerly look for my *Cincinnati Magazine*, as it's become a critical lifeline for me until we return in 2007.

SANDI STRAETKER
St. Louis, Missouri

We are very disappointed to see *Cincinnati Magazine* exploit our family's pain over the disturbing behavior of our brother, Peter. There is no "feud" in our family—just one child who left us years ago and has engaged in bizarre behavior ever since. We love our father very much. We are proud of his professional accomplishments and the values he has instilled in us.

PHIL HEIMLICH
Symmes Township
JANET HEIMLICH
Austin, Texas

Correction

In our January 2006 issue, an item that appears in the Pork Roast, our satirical end-of-the-year wrap-up, is factually incorrect. The item refers to a headline that purportedly ran on the front page of *The Kentucky Post*. In fact, the headline in question never ran in *The Kentucky Post*. The image of the front page with the erroneous headline, which we printed, originally appeared on a local political gossip web site known as *The Whistleblower*. The editors of *Cincinnati Magazine* deeply regret the error.



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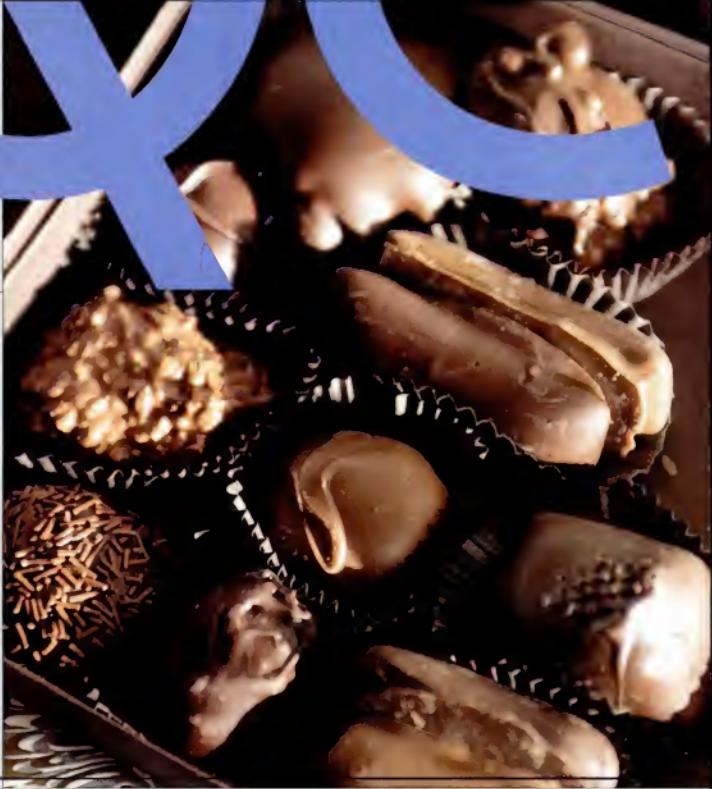
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february

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO THE QUEEN CITY

SWEET SHOP
Since 1913, the pink-fronted Aglamesis Brothers store in Oakley has been home to chocolates made "the sincere way." Photographer Ryan Kurtz caught Lisa Thotcher in the middle of making peanut clusters and chocolate-dipped apricots, then zoomed in on the deluxe box of mixed chocolates.





He flies through the air with the greatest of ease. It's the run, plant, and take-off that aren't quite so effortless.

Pole vaulting is a tough sport. It takes speed, strength, and agility. Jon Bartos has all those things, and the 42-year-old has used them to achieve national prominence in Masters Level—age 35 and older—track and field competitions. In 2004 he took first place in the USA Track and Field's (USATF) National Indoor Championships and second in the national outdoor finals.

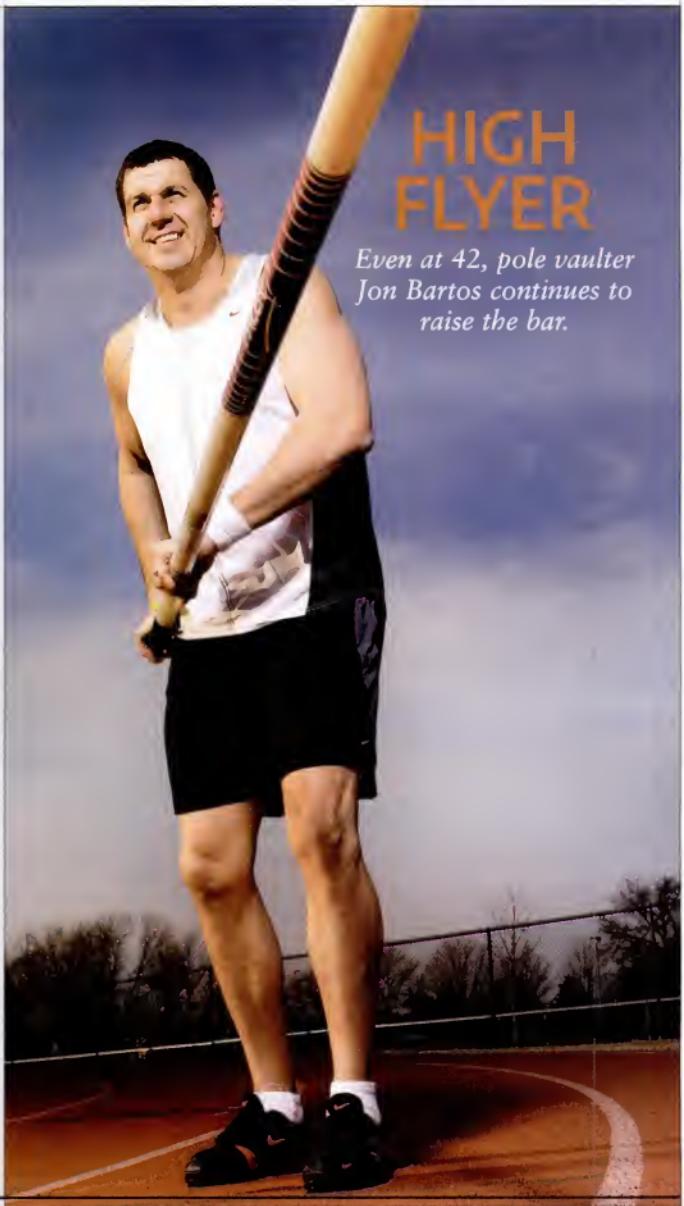
Bartos has a quick laugh, and at 6'3" and 195 pounds, the lean, muscular build of a younger man. But age is a relentless adversary. Strenuous sprint and strength training sessions are no longer the biggest hurdles he faces. At this stage in life, it's avoiding injury. He has run into a few: stress fractures, pulled muscles, and broken bones. Last year, just days before he was to defend his USATF Masters Indoor Championship in Boise, Idaho, Bartos broke a toe when a closet shelf fell on his left foot at his home in Mason. Throwing in the pole wasn't an option for the ultra-competitive Bartos, so he shortened his usual 105-foot approach to 62 feet to minimize the stress on his foot, and placed third.

The toe eventually healed and now Bartos is hungry to be on top again. On February 18, he'll compete in the Ohio Association Indoor Championship at Ohio Northern University in Ada. If he wins there, he'll head to Kenosha, Wisconsin, two weeks later for the USATF's Midwest Regional Indoor Masters Championship. Both competitions, however, will serve as a warm-up for the bigger prize later in March: the USATF's Indoor tournament in Boston. Bartos has already qualified, and he'll compete against 20 athletes from all over North America. He's confident he'll finish first at all three events. "I drive myself to be the best," he says.

That's putting it mildly. Bartos sets the bar high, whatever he does. In 1999, armed with a management background in the bar code/data collection ►►

HIGH FLYER

Even at 42, pole vaulter Jon Bartos continues to raise the bar.



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D·A·R·I·S·I·A·N

field, Bartos opened Jonathan Scott International, a headhunting firm specializing in high-tech fields. Today, he has 25 recruiters and researchers working out of his Mason office.

But pole vaulting runs in his blood. Bartos excelled at the high school level in his hometown of Corunna, Michigan, and then again at Michigan State University, where he won the Michigan State Open as a senior in 1985, before a severe ankle sprain cut short his final college season. Fast forward 17 years. Bartos, the father of two teenagers and an avid triathlete, is approached by a former high school teammate about competing in a Masters Level pole vaulting tournament in Dayton. He sees it as a second chance to compete against many of the guys he'd once gone up against. "It's exhilarating to be able to train and be competitive at this sport again," he says.

To do that he dropped 26 pounds in three months, and started lifting weights, sprinting, and practicing gymnastics. It paid off. At that first meet, the Dayton Track Classic in 2003, he took first place and set an event record with a 13'6" vault.

Back in the game, Bartos now works to raise the sport to new heights. He volunteers as an assistant track coach for Mason High School, runs an indoor training facility called Gymnation in his hometown, and manages an online coaching program, www.vaultmonster.com. Like any good recruiter, Bartos works his candidates. He convinced the grandfather of a high school pole vaulter to pick up his pole for the first time since 1949. He's now ranked internationally for men over 70. "The focus is to help make people as good as they want to be—and it's fun," says Bartos. Still, he remains philosophical about competitive sports. "It's not all about the [win]," he says. "It's about the journey." • MARCY LISLE

LABOR OF LOVE

Frying chicken at home is messy, hot, hard work. But it's a great way to show someone you care.

The Great Fried Chicken Adventure started when I was working on Best of the City. Like any diligent reporter, I consulted my sources—OK, my friends—compiling a list of places where the bird was the word. When I brought up the subject over dinner with my sweetheart, Gary, and our friends Chick, Melissa, Eddie, and Terry, Eddie told me that I wouldn't find his favorite in any restaurant. "Terry makes the world's best fried chicken," he said. Chick and Melissa agreed. "Unfortunately," Eddie continued, "I haven't had it in so long, I've almost forgotten what it tastes like." Terry just shook her head. "It's *work*," she said. "But worth it," Eddie added. Then Gary chimed in. "You should teach her how to make it," he said to Terry. "Then maybe we'll get some a little more often."

The plan was born. My first task: shopping. The list: chicken, flour, eggs, oil, buttermilk, regular milk, butter, and potatoes for mashing. Gary picked up the chicken at Tewes Poultry Farm in Erlanger, and in the process learned lesson No. 1: Always ask for fryers (the birds are smaller and the pieces are more evenly sized). In his zeal, Gary purchased five chickens, giving us way more meat than we needed to feed six people. We soaked the pieces in buttermilk, as Terry instructed, and left them in the fridge overnight.

The next day, I toted the whole lot to Chick and Melissa's house, where we'd agreed to meet for the cookoff. Terry looked nervous. "I don't know," she said. "I've never made this much at one time." Still, she lined up pans on the stove, filled them with oil, and gave me lesson No. 2: A deep cast-iron skillet with a lid is the proper chicken-frying pan. "It has to be deep enough for the oil," she explained, "and you'll want to cover it to let the pieces cook."

Terry then pulled out two bowls, one for the beaten eggs and one for the flour that we'd use for breading. That brought lesson No. 3: "If you can't get seasoned flour," she said, "use Lowry's and some black pepper."

Lesson No. 4 was easy. "Flour, egg, flour," Terry said, dipping pieces of chicken in each, then placing them in the hot oil. I stood at her elbow, wielding a pair of tongs, turning, adjusting, and pulling chicken from the oil and setting it aside to drain. With three pans bubbling and popping at the same time, our crazy production line began to seem like a dance: flour, egg, flour, oil, turn in this pan, take those out, turn in that pan, take these out, more flour, more egg, more flour, again. Melissa just sat across the kitchen and watched. The pace began to take a toll on Terry. "I don't think I'll ever do this much chicken again," she said.

"Just think of it as a labor of love," Melissa said.

Terry, her fingers dripping globs of flour and egg, started to laugh, but that gave us lesson No. 5: Why would anyone stand over hot oil for two hours? Because it's not just about the food or the mess; it's not even about learning how to make something new. It's about coming together to cook, to eat, and to be with friends. It's not as sweet as chocolate, but a boatload of fried chicken makes a pretty good Valentine. • AMANDA BOYD





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BOTTOMS UP

LOCAL SAMUEL ADAMS BREWERY EXPANDS

You'd expect a beer named after a Revolutionary War patriot to be made in Boston, but if Jim Koch has his way, Samuel Adams will become as Cincinnati as cheese coney and goetta. Koch's Boston Beer Company recently spent \$6.5 million renovating and expanding the former Hudepohl-Schoenling brewery in Over-the-Rhine, allowing the company to increase local production while preserving part of Cincinnati's beer brewing tradition.

Koch's father, Charles, was a brewmaster at Hudepohl-Schoenling more than 50 years ago, and the younger Koch, who bought the building in 1996, understands the facility's significance. "We were very lucky—there just aren't many of these traditional small batch breweries left," he says.

While the expansion lets Samuel Adams operate 24 hours a day and boosts its annual output from 600,000 to 800,000 barrels, Koch is most excited about a more artistic change. Two stainless steel brew kettles were replaced with 11,000-pound copper kettles, a throwback to a centuries-old tradition that chemically enhances the fermentation process. "They're the final finishing touch to restore the last bit of tradition to the brewery," says Koch.

That two-thirds of all Samuel Adams beverages come from Cincinnati might upset Yankee beer purists, but Koch is committed to being a good neighbor. His company helped found the West End Business Association, and has organized litter pick-up events in Over-the-Rhine. "It's kind of cool to see the area improve," says Koch. Those of us who live—and drink—here couldn't agree more.

—MATT CUNNINGHAM



QC

intersection

MAINSTRASSE

Main St. & W. Sixth St.

In an age when big-box stores rule the retail landscape, MainStrasse Village in Covington is a refreshing alternative. First, there's the architecture, a rich blend of beautifully restored 19th-century Victorian and Classic Italianate buildings that helped make the area a National Historic District in 1983. Then there are the shops. To say there's an eclectic blend of retail and eateries here doesn't quite capture this neighborhood: Bars, art galleries, tattoo parlors, even a sports memorabilia shop call MainStrasse home.

Any visit here should start with a glimpse into the future. Discover what's in store for the day—and the rest of your life—with a psychic reading at **© GOTHIC EDGE** (410 W. Sixth St.). Aside from the supernatural offerings, this shop features a fascinating display of jewelry, most notably a dazzling collection of garnet and amethyst gemstone necklaces. If that's too fancy for you, peruse the shop's medieval and Renaissance armor and artillery replicas. Weaponry buffs will drool over the rapiers and samurai swords, or get schooled in how to handle a bronze Egyptian dagger.

When you're sufficiently versed in the art of jousting, turn right onto Main Street and head to **© CENTERFIELD CARDS AND COLLECTIBLES** (627 Main St.) for a different kind of battle: bartering. Here, you can buy, sell, or even trade any sports-related memorabilia. Interested in owning a piece of Cincinnati history? Purchase an autographed photo of Reds outfielder Ken Griffey Jr. Better yet, trade in those childhood baseball cards that have been doing nothing but taking up space in your attic.

Now that you've got a little extra cash, you might consider investing in a hot drink at **© SCRIBBLES BOOKS, MUSIC, COFFEE** (616 Main St.). This cozy place is filled with used



books (there are two rooms' worth to explore), CDs, vintage clothing, and of course, a coffee bar. There are numerous comfy chairs to plop down on, the staff is friendly, and if time isn't an issue, you can always get a game of checkers going with a friend or fellow customer.

When it's time to snap out of that serenity, venture across the street for a visit to **© DESIGNS BY DANA** (631 Main St.). The sign on the front door says "No Crybabies," and for 34 years that's exactly the kind of clientele tattoo artist Dana Brunson has catered to. His parlor has hundreds of designs to choose from (including an array of Celtic patterns), as well as nine professional tattoo artists at the ready. If you've got the gumption, Brunson and his staff are ready to make an arm, back, leg—or something else—look pretty. "We do everything from a small tattoo to a full-body suit," says Brunson.

Finally, show off your new armor with an end-of-the-evening drink at the **© COCK & BULL ENGLISH PUB** (601 Main St.). If it's beer you want, it's beer you'll get, with more than 18 different brands (Blue Moon and Newcastle Brown among them) on tap along with a traditional menu featuring fish and chips. It's enough to make you feel like you've traveled to jolly old England. Or, at the very least, a few miles from a Wal-Mart.

—MARY BETH BENNETT



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john apke

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MEET THE PRO >> Madeira native John Apke has been caring for residential and commercial carpets since 1987. Apke Carpet Care specializes in both Oriental and wall to wall carpet cleaning as well as whole-house cleaning after fire or water damage. "We'll wash down walls, pack up the contents, even move people out if we have to," he says.

SKILL SET >> "White berber carpet is great for my business," says Apke, who uses powerful steam extraction equipment to clean up what pets, kids, and shoes leave behind. One thing he's learned is that nylon carpeting holds up better in high traffic areas than olefin, a less resilient synthetic fiber. Despite its durability, Apke doesn't encounter much wool carpeting. "Wool holds up great, wears great," he says, "but it's expensive."

ABOVE AND BEYOND >> Apke has eliminated pet stains, skunk odor, and Kool-Aid spills, and for one client, a dead squirrel. "They had heard a squirrel in the house and then forgot about it because it stopped making noise," he says. "A couple of days later, when it started to smell, they called me. I had to remove a cabinet to get it out."

PERSONAL BEST >> Apke recommends having your carpets professionally cleaned once or twice a year. What can you do in between cleanings to keep carpets looking new? "Vacuum!" he says, emphatically. "One study showed 80 to 90 percent of debris in your carpets can be vacuumed out."

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Cabin Fever

*Take a break from winter's last hurrah
at Murphin Ridge Inn.*

Let's face it, February is the epitome of the winter doldrums. Sure, there's the requisite romance of Valentine's Day smack in the middle of the month, but other than that, it's a 28-day stretch when winter has simply grown tired of itself and spring still seems so far away. But that's all the more reason to find something ordinary to celebrate. A quick weekend getaway, especially one with romantic or self-indulgent overtones, can easily distract us from the last throes of winter. There is, after all, something to be said for holing up alone or with a sweetie in a secluded rural outpost. So when I craved rejuvenation for a weather-battled psyche that seemed stuck in hibernation mode, I ventured to Murphin Ridge Inn in West Union, Ohio.

West Union is only a 60-mile drive from Cincinnati, but driving east on State Route 32 at dusk can seem like a relentless trek into Nowheresville, Ohio. Still, the best destinations are often tucked away where we least expect to find them, so I cruised on, my reliable Toyota hungrily swallowing up miles. The challenge of trying to maneuver a series of country roads in the dark made me nearly miss the turn-off to the inn, and as my headlights split the night, rendering rural landmarks utterly useless, I tried to imagine what I might be passing—Amish farms? Thick forests? Homemade stills? By the time I reached the inn, it was utterly dark, and I followed the dimly lit footpath to my secluded cabin, hoping the place was already toasty warm.

It was. And while Murphin Ridge is readymade for romance—with its candlelit gourmet meals at the cozy 1828 farmhouse and fireside whirlpools tucked away in secluded cabins—it's also a fitting destination for solo adventurers hankering for a wintertime escape. That's what struck me as I opened up my cabin door and found an interior that offered a brilliant contrast to the cold southern Ohio night. The decor was a perfectly balanced equation of rustic luxury, with the hand-built cabin's A-frame ceiling towering over the custom furniture by Morrow-based craftsman David T. Smith. I monkeyed with the various mood settings on the lights, flipped the switch on the three-sided glass-enclosed fireplace, pulled the curtains across the windows, and proudly surveyed my overnight

BY JENNY WOHLFARTH

BED TIME
A hand-crafted four-poster is the centerpiece of a Murphin Ridge cabin (opposite); a sunrise view of the fire pit from outside the inn (above).





ITINERARY

TRIP PLANNING DETAILS

1 B&B

Murphine Ridge Inn, 750 Murphine Ridge Rd., West Union, Ohio, (877) 687-7446, www.murphineidgeinn.com.

Choose from 10 inn rooms or go for total seclusion in one of nine cabins, each with a three-sided gas fireplace, two-person shower and roomy whirlpool. Be sure to say hello to innkeepers Sherry and Darryl McKenney. Off-season (January–March) overnight rates range from \$107 (inn room) to \$225 (large cabin, weekend rate).

2 Dinner Plans

You simply can't beat the gourmet grub at the inn, where chef **Jackson Rouse** conjures up multi-course masterpieces served in the four downstairs rooms of the 1828 two-story farmhouse. Winter menu entrées range from \$18 to \$34 and include chicken à la Queen, brown sugar-brined pork loin, and blue cheese encrusted steak.

3 Historical Sidestrip

Serpent Mound State Memorial, 3850 State Route 73, Peebles, Ohio, (800) 752-2757, www.ohiohistory.org/places/serpent. Park visitors can walk a footpath that encircles this monumental effigy of an uncoiling serpent that's nearly a quarter-mile long. The park is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. (The onsite museum has season-specific hours.) Entry fee: \$7 per vehicle.

4 Shopping Stop

Bush Creek Farm General Store, 1748 Waggoner Riffle Rd., West Union, (937) 544-8961. For a surreal flashback to bygone years, step inside this old-time general store that peddles herbal teas, fresh roasted coffee, handmade soap, candles, crafts made by local artisans, and various farm products. Open on weekends April through September.

empire, taking inventory of everything from the alluring sloped shoulders of the whirlpool to the sparkly tiles in the spacious two-person glass-shower stall.

Oh yes. This is getting away.

What I didn't see was a TV—none of the inn's 10 rooms or nine cabins has one. That meant a night of blissful, undisturbed reading ahead, a delightful prospect. I popped a Nanci Griffith CD in the clock radio player and flopped down on the bed, taking it all in. The bed, by the way, was an elegantly sculpted four-poster beast that was belly-button-high and required an energetic launch from the floor. Tall beds are so tantalizing; they have that princess-and-the-pea luxury, as if resting on such a plush pedestal literally elevates sleep to a higher state of existence. And this bed came with a view: the triangular skylights built into the ceiling's alcove give you a glimpse of the outside world from flat on your back.

At some point during my reverie, I noticed a small book on a table by a window: the cabin diary. A random flip through the pages drew me into the vivid testimonials of the travelers who had been here before me—I read the log from beginning to end, sifting through the memories scribbled on the pages. I felt part voyeur, part pilgrim as I traveled through the cabin's past, thinking about the people who had stayed here, celebrating anniversaries and honeymoons and birthdays and holidays. I didn't come here intending to celebrate anything, but suddenly everything seemed worth commemorating. People wrote about the sound of rain on the cabin's tin roof, the long hikes in the woods with Red Dog (the inn's canine mascot), and the indulgent meals whipped up by the inn's chef. I started salivating for my own country breakfast (which would turn out to be



LET THEM EAT CAKE What could be sweeter than sharing a slice of chocolate cake (above); meals at the inn are served by the fire in the farmhouse, built in 1828 (below).

stuffed french toast, smothered in blueberry sauce) scheduled for the next morning.

After a pruning soak in the whirlpool tub, I wanted to take one final look outside before drifting away under the down-stuffed comforter, so at midnight—when it was 32 degrees out—I bundled up and stepped out onto the porch to take in the night sky, which seemed propped up by a teepee of trees whose barren branches reached up into a galaxy of constellations and dippers, bears and belts, bows and arrows, spinning in cosmic clarity. The darkness swallowed up the horizon, the inn's namesake ridge, and everything beyond the small stand of trees around the cabin, the sky a huge curved canopy that seemed to hunker down right over the very spot where I stood, putting me dead-center in the universe, just for a moment.

When I woke up the next morning, I opened the cabin's curtains and stepped out onto the porch in the brisly morning air, reveling in the opportunity to finally visualize this unknown world where I'd landed last night. The inn and cabins were situated in the middle of an expansive field overlooking the edge of the Appalachian foothills, dotted with Amish farms. I sucked in the cold air, resuscitated by winter's chilly breath, and felt rested and whole again. G



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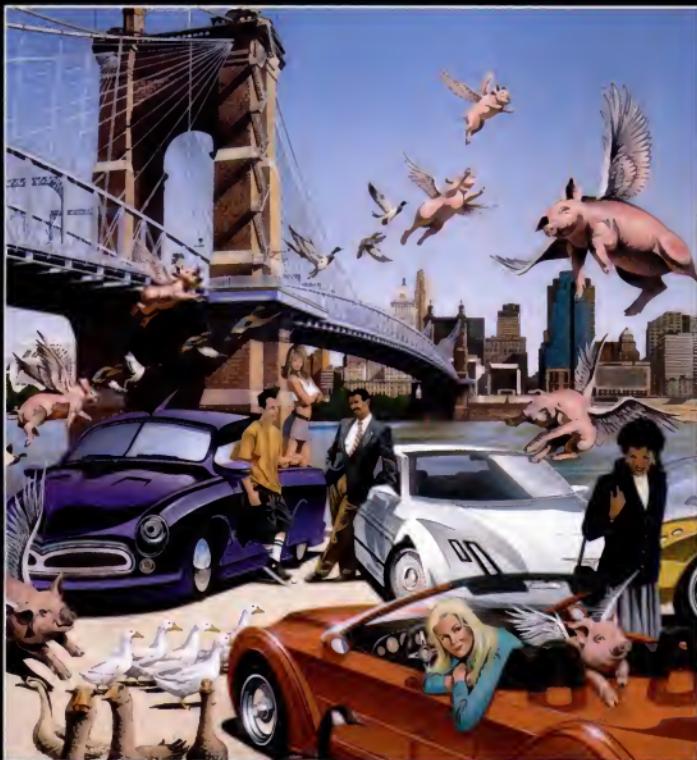


Illustration By David Michael Beck

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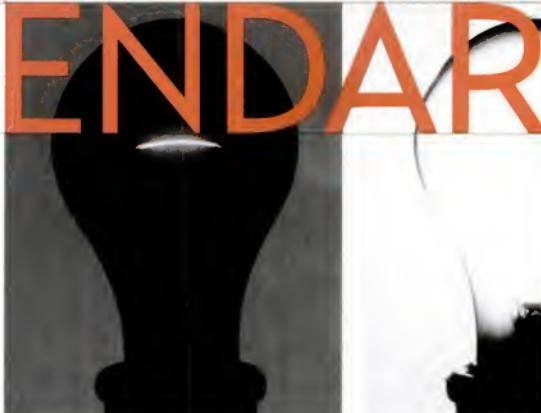


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CALENDAR

CINCINNATI MAGAZINE



GALLERY OPENING

New View

Put down that digital camera you got for Christmas and check out **SEEING THE LIGHT**, a photography exhibition that lends a new perspective to taking pictures. Eighteen photographers from around the world use light boxes, camera obscura, and other nontraditional means to create images (like *Lightbulb Grid* by Amanda Means, seen here), optical studies, collages, and more.

• KATHLEEN DOANE

FYI Carl Solway Gallery,
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FEB

AGENDA

10 things you gotta do this month



1 TURNING TRICKS Some of the country's top stunt cyclists compete for cash in an **IFMA Freestyle Motocross FMX** barn-storming bonanza of aerial acrobatics. Here, the trick names say it all: Kiss of Death; Cliffhanger; and our favorite, Cordova, in which an airborne rider hooks his feet under the handlebars, then arches his back until he's looking behind and upside-down. \$5-\$26.75. At 8 pm. U.S. Bank Arena, Broadway and Mehring Way, downtown, (513) 421-4711. **Feb 10 & 11**

2 SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT

Cheerleaders invade the Queen City this month as the Cincinny and Cintas centers each host competitions. The **All-Spirit National** and the **Valentine's Holiday championships** spread their spunkly brand of joy, complete with souped-up dance music. At Cincinny: \$15, 525 Elm St., www.americasbestcheer.com. At Cintas: \$10, 1624 Herald Ave., www.cheerpower.com. Times vary. **Feb 11, 12 & 19**



3 GET FUNKED UP Head over to **Clique Lounge** and break out your best moves for **Move On Up**, the monthly dance party where DJs spin an assortment of soul and funk music. At 10 pm. 6 W. Pike St., Covington, www.clique-lounge.com. **Feb 3**

4 FEET FEAT Cincinnati Ballet sets the stage for the most beloved of classical ballets, *Swan Lake*. To review: A prince falls in love with a girl who has been transformed into a swan by an evil sorcerer. The fancy foot-work, lush romantic score, stunning costumes, and lavish sets will leave you breathless. \$18-\$63. Fri 8 pm, Sat 2 & 8 pm, Sun 2 & 7:30 pm. Procter & Gamble Hall, Anonoff Center, 650 Walnut St., downtown, (513) 621-5282. **Feb 10-12**



5 CHORAL GLORY The city's premier choral group, the **Vocal Arts Ensemble**, performs art songs and folk music from around the world in a concert lead by America's foremost choral conductor, Dale Warland. Warland, who directed the Dale Warland Singers for 31 years before retiring in 2004, shares the podium with Stephen Coker, associate professor of choral music at the College-Conservatory of Music. \$10-\$20. At 8 pm. St. Barnobas Episcopal Church, 10345 Montgomery Rd., Montgomery; Corbett Auditorium, College-Conservatory of Music, UC Clifton campus, (513) 559-0000. **Feb 24 & 25**



7 FIT FOR A PRINCESS Get up-close and personal with some of Princess Diana's belongings during **Diana, A Celebration** at the Dayton Art Institute. Nearly 150 items are on display, including family heirlooms, personal mementos, and her 1981 Royal Wedding gown. \$9.50-\$18.50. 456 Belmonte Park North, Dayton, (937) 223-5277. Check www.daytonartinstitute.org for hours. **Opens Feb 18**

8 PRIDE & PREJUDICE

Playwright Dael Orlandersmith explores racism within the African-American community in **Yellowman**. The 2002 Pulitzer Prize finalist tells the story of dark-skinned Alma and light-skinned Eugene, whose childhood friendship takes a turn toward love when they get older. Two actors play all the parts. \$34.50-\$50.50. Playhouse in the Park, 962 Mt. Adams Circle, Mt. Adams, (513) 421-3888. Check www.cincyplay.com for times. **Opens Feb 11**

YELLOWMAN

9 HOW DO I LOVE THEE?

You can count the ways at **Romantic Rhymes**, the Riverbank Poetry Project's Valentine's Day-themed event. At 7 pm. Fairfield Lane Library, 1485 Corydale Dr., Fairfield, (513) 858-3238. **Feb 14**

10 RING THING

Saturday takes center stage four nights this month. The best way to view the ringed planet is through the Cincinnati Observatory Center's 16-inch telescope. \$35. At 7 pm. 3469 Observatory Rd., Hyde Park, (513) 321-2110. **Feb 4-7**

ON THE SAME PAGE 2006

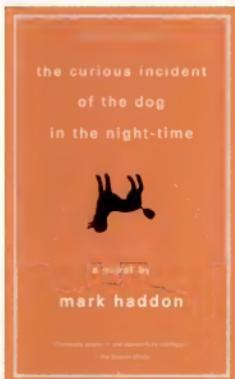
Curiously Engaging

WHAT IS IT?

Now in its fifth year, *On The Same Page Cincinnati* is a community-wide program that brings people together to celebrate reading while encouraging them to experience a different worldview through literature.

WHAT IS THE BOOK?

The selected title for 2006 is *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. Hoping to follow in the footsteps of his literary hero Sherlock Holmes, 15-year-old Christopher Boone decided to write a book based on the mysterious death of Wellington, his neighbor's poodle. Christopher writes from an unusual point of view — he appears to have Asperger Syndrome, which is in the 'autistic spectrum' of neurological disorders. As he uncovers clues to the mystery, he also discovers something about his family, which compels him to take a courageous journey toward independence. The result is a profoundly moving story with an uncommon hero.



WHEN IS IT?

(February 1 - March 31) The program will officially be launched on February 4 at the Corryville Branch Library, 2802 Vine St., 1:00 p.m. featuring nationally recognized artist Barb Moran, who will talk about her work and her own experience of living with autism.

HOW DO I FIND THE BOOK?

Copies of the book are available at the public library or bookstores.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

Log onto www.CincinnatiLibrary.org/samepage/

On The Same Page Cincinnati
is a project of the Public Library
of Cincinnati & Hamilton
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in part by the Friends of
the Public Library, Joseph-Beth
Booksellers, Cincinnati
Magazine, and WVXU Radio.



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Hamilton County

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magazine



FEB.

EVENTS

More great things to do

WRITER: AIESHA D. LITTLE

HAVE AN EVENT TO LIST? Send us the event's date, general description, time, address, cost, and a daytime phone number. Calendar deadline is eight weeks prior to issue date (May items are due March 1). Information received will be used at the discretion of the editorial staff. There is no guarantee that your event will be listed. We are not responsible for late or misdirected submissions.

MAIL to Cincinnati Magazine, Calendar Editor, One Centennial Plaza, 705 Central Ave., Suite 175, Cincinnati, OH 45202

FAX 513-562-2746

E-MAIL cmcalendar@cintimag.emmis.com

special events

ONE WORLD WEDNESDAY

Feb 1: Brazil is the country of choice during this monthly party where art, music, and culture collide. **Admission:** \$6. Wed 5:30-9 pm. Cincinnati Art Museum, 933 Eden Park Dr., Mt. Adams, (513) 721-2787.

NIKKI GIOVANNI

Feb 17: The world-renowned poet speaks as a part of *Celebrate Dunbar!*, a series of events honoring the life and works of Paul Laurence Dunbar. **Tickets:** \$12-\$18. Fri 8 pm. Victoria Theatre Association, 138 N. Main St., Dayton, (937) 228-3630.

APPALACHIAN CULTURE FEST

Feb 18 & 19: Sample the diversity of cultures around the globe with this installment in the Cincinnati Museum Center's "Passport to the World" series. Sat & Sun noon-5 pm. Museum Center Grande Rotunda, Museum Center, 1301 Western Ave., West End, (513) 287-7000.

MAINSTRASSE MARDI GRAS

Feb 24 & 25: MainStrasse Village celebrates the Big Easy's big bash with parades, Cajun food, and entertainment. Fri & Sat 7 pm-1 am. MainStrasse Village, Fifth & Main Sts., Covington, (859) 491-0458.

ART ACHES

Feb 25: An art show and sale featuring original and affordable art by emerging artists in the Cincinnati area. Sat 9 pm. alchemize, 1122 Walnut St., Over-the-Rhine, www.alchemize.com.

HURRICANE KATRINA RESTAURANT BENEFIT

Feb 27: Knotty Pine on the Bayou serves up appetizers, cocktails, and jazz to benefit Restaurant des Familles in Crown Point, Louisiana. **Tickets:** \$30. Mon 6-10 pm. 6720 Licking Pke., Cold Spring, (859) 781-2200.

galleries

ARTWORKS TIME WARNER CABLE GALLERY

Feb 3-25: *Visionaries & Voices*, an exhibition by

artists with disabilities. Opening reception Sat, Feb 11, 2-5 pm. **Hours:** Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm, 811 Race St., downtown, (513) 333-0388.

CARNEGIE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Feb 10-March 5: *MadCap Puppets* in the Ohio National Gallery, *Cartoons and Costumes* in the Duveneck Gallery, *Build Your Own Installation* in the Rieveschel Gallery, *Young Picasso's* children's art showcase in the Huston Gallery, and *House of Cards* in the Connector Gallery. **Hours:** Mon-Fri

OUT OF TOWN



Cirque Delirious

While you're waiting on CIRQUE DU SOLEIL to decide if they'll perform in the Queen City this fall, head up to Columbus for DELIRIUM, the international circus troupe's first arena show. Music takes center stage as Cirque remixes 21 of its best instrumentals, adding lyrics for the first time ever. In addition to a slew of dancers, actors, and acrobats, six vocalists round out

DELIRIUM's cast of characters. Sans big top, the show conforms to whatever large space it inhabits, in this case, Nationwide Arena. But audiences need not worry. The 540-foot projection screens will have even circus-goers in the nosebleeds shouting "sacré bleu!" during this grandiose multimedia extravaganza.

• JOSH BLAIR

FYI **Tickets:** \$69.50-\$110. Fri 8 pm, Sat 2 & 8 pm. Nationwide Arena, 200 W. Nationwide Blvd., Columbus, (614) 246-2000

10-5 pm, Sat noon-3 pm. 1028 Scott St., Covington, (859) 491-2030.

FITTON CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Feb 9-April 5: *Lori Miles: Cumulus*, sculpture installation in the Anne Rude Bever Galleries. *Facing Prejudice* *Everyday*, traveling exhibition in the lobby gallery. **Hours:** Mon-Thurs 9 am-8 pm, Fri 9 am-5 pm, Sat noon-1 pm, 101 S. Monument Ave., Hamilton, (513) 863-8873.

KENNEDY HEIGHTS ART CENTER

Feb 11-March 25: *Heart of Art*, a mixed media exhibition of acrylic, oil, and watercolor paintings and sculpture portraying the theme of love for and through art. **Hours:** Sat 10 am-4 pm, 6346 Montgomery Rd., Kennedy Heights, (513) 631-4278.

MALTON GALLERY

Feb 17-March 31: *New Works*, featuring local encaustic painter Patrice Trauth, equestrian painter Anne Embree and new sculptures by French artist Philippe Pasqualini. **Hours:** Tues-Sat 11 am-5 pm, 2643 Erie Ave., Hyde Park, (513) 321-8614.

MILLER GALLERY

Feb 17-March 4: *Christopher Brian*, oil painting exhibition. Opening reception Fri, Feb 17, 6-8 pm. **Hours:** Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, 2715 Erie Ave., Hyde Park, (513) 871-4420.

RUTHE G. PEARLMAN GALLERY

Thru Feb 3: *Claire Darley*, sabbatical exhibition. **Feb 9-March 3:** *Welcome Back*, the Art Academy's alumni invitational. Opening reception Fri, Feb 10, 5-7 pm. **Hours:** Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm, Art Academy of Cincinnati, 1212 Jackson St., Over-the-Rhine, (513) 562-2626.

STUDIO SAN GIUSEPPE ART GALLERY

Thru Feb 19: *Ohio Watercolor Society Exhibition*. **Feb 26-March 26:** *Favorite Posters*, an invitational exhibition of posters chosen by designers from around the world. Opening reception Sun, Feb 19, 1-4:30 pm. **Hours:** Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat & Sun 1:30-4:30 pm. Dorothy Meyer Ziv Art Building, College of Mt. St. Joseph, Delhi and Neel Rd., Delhi Township, (513) 244-4314.

CARL SOLWAY GALLERY

Thru April 15: *Robert Rauschenberg: Samarkand Stitches*, exhibition of screenprint and fabric collages. **Hours:** Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm, Sat noon-5 pm. 424 Findlay St., West End, (513) 621-0069.

UNIVERSITY GALLERIES ON SYCAMORE

Thru Feb 10: *Keith Linton: Ocular Assault* in the Changing Exhibition Gallery. **Feb 17-March 10:** *Bad Drawing* in the Changing Exhibition Gallery. **Thru March 10:** *Watercolors by Onorato Carlandi (1848-1939)* in the Focus Gallery. **Hours:** Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm, Sat 11 am-4 pm, 628 Sycamore St., downtown, (513) 241-1400.

ALICE F. AND HARRIS K. WESTON ART GALLERY

Thru March 26: *Something: Site-Specific Installation* by Sonja Herrinix. **Thru March 26:** *In The Space As We Talk: Paintings and Works on Paper* by Yvonne van Eijden. **Thru March 26:** *A Personal Odyssey: Paintings, Jewelry, and Mixed Media Installation* by Martin Bernstein. **Hours:** Tues-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm, until 8 performance nights; Sun

noon-5 pm, 7 pm performance nights. Aronoff Center for the Arts, 650 Walnut St., downtown, (513) 977-4165.

museums

CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM

Discussions and Workshops: *Feb 11-May 28: The Art of Painting—Portraits workshop, Sat & Sun 11 am-5 pm. Feb 18: From Author to Artist Book Club: Hamlet, Sat 1 pm. Feb 18-June 11: Rembrandt: Master Printmaker, Thru March 5: Cat Chow.* **Hours:** Tues-Sun 11 am-5 pm, Wed 11 am-9 pm. 953 Eden Park Dr., Mt. Adams, (513) 721-2787.

CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER

Thru Feb 26: Threads of Faith: Recent Works From The Women of Color Quilters Network. Robert D. Lindner Family OMNIMAX. **Thru March 3: Baja's Ocean Oasis.** OMNIMAX times: Mon 1, 2, & 3 pm; Tues-Thurs 1, 2, 3, 7, & 8 pm; Fri 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, & 9 pm; Sat 11 am-9 pm hourly, Sun 11 am-6 pm hourly. Open daily. **Cincinnati History Museum:** Permanent exhibitions cover a variety of historical topics. **Cincinnati Historical Society Library:** Mon-Fri noon-5 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, (513) 287-7030. **Museum of Natural History & Science:** Permanent exhibitions cover a variety of natural history topics. **Cinergy Children's Museum:** Interactive facility with exhibitions for children. **Admission:** adults \$7.25 for one museum, seniors \$6.25 for one museum, children 3-12 \$5.25 for one museum, children 1-2 \$4.25 for all museums and traveling exhibits for one day, children under 1 free. **Hours:** Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 11 am-6 pm. 1301 Western Ave., West End, (513) 287-7000.

COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ART

Thru March 11: On Assignment: Photographs by Arthur Leipzig. Hours: Tues, Wed, Sun 10 am-5:30 pm, Thurs 10 am-8:30 pm. **Admission:** adults \$6, students & seniors \$5. 480 E. Broad St., Columbus, (614) 221-6801.

CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

Thru April 16: Taryn Simon: The Innocents. **Thru April 16: The Whole World is Rotten: Free Radicals and the Gold Coast Slave Castles of Paul Joe.** **Thru April 30: Tony Oursler.** **Thru Dec 2006: Gadget: Mechanics and Motion in Contemporary Art.** **Admission:** adults \$7.50, seniors \$6.50, students \$5.50, children \$4.50. **Hours:** Mon 10 am-9 pm, Wed-Fri 10 am-6 pm, Sat & Sun 11 am-6 pm. 44 E. Sixth St., downtown, (513) 345-8415.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

Thru March 10: Thomas R. Schiff: Panoramic Photographs. **Thru March 25: Julian Stanczak: Constellation Series Paintings.** **Thru May 6: Contemporary American Indian Art: Speaking Without Words.** **Hours:** Tues-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat noon-5 pm. 801 S. Patterson Ave., Oxford, (513) 529-2232.

NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER

Feb 7 & 21: Story Circles. Tues noon-12:30 pm. **Admission:** adults \$12, students & seniors \$10, children \$8. **Hours:** Tues-Sat 11 am-5 pm. 50 E. Freedom Way, downtown, (513) 333-7500.

SPEED ART MUSEUM

Feb 4-June 25: Louisville contemporary artist Gaele Erwin co-curates her own exhibition. **Thru**



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FEB.

classical music

CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Feb 3 & 4: Pianist Barry Douglas joins conductor Keri-Lynn Wilson in a program of Hersch, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn. **Feb 9 & 10:** Pianist Jon Kimura Parker joins conductor William Eddins in a program of Kernis, Antlheil, and Tchaikovsky. **Feb 24 & 25:** Sir Roger Norrington conducts a program of Williams, Haydn, and Beethoven. **Tickets:** \$17.75-\$91.25. Call for times. Music Hall, 1241 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine, (513) 381-3300.

Q & A

Corn-fucius

Humorist **BOB FARMER** is the front man for one of the country's oldest repositories of trivia and prognostication, *Farmers' Almanac*. This month, he is the featured speaker at the Montgomery Woman's Club Town Hall Lecture Series.

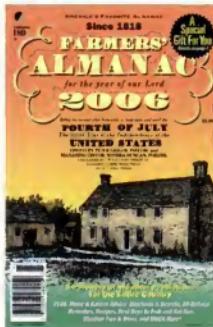
Is there a connection between your last name and the person who started *Farmers' Almanac* in 1818? There's no family tie whatsoever, just a happy coincidence. The name, *Farmers' Almanac*, indicates it [originally] was for farmers, but now it's for anyone who likes nostalgia, gardening, cooking, facts, and folklore.

So how did you end up at the almanac? Back in the '70s I was the marketing director for a bank, and we bought the almanacs for our customers. The editor and I got along really well and one day at lunch, we both realized that "Bob Farmer" was an excellent name to help promote the almanac.

Who researches and writes all those weather predictions, tips, and trivia? We get articles, recipes, hints, et cetera, from all over the country. We also have an astronomer on staff. The weather is done by an individual who uses the pseudonym Caleb

Weatherbee. His secret formula for long-term weather predictions is carefully guarded. I certainly don't know it.

The almanac still has that old-time look, but has the content changed much in 188 years? It's changed visually to be more readable, with larger type and more photos, but the backbone—weather and astronomy—have always been there. And of course, the [hook] hole in the corner of the cover must stay or there would be anarchy in America.



Is *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, produced by Yankee Publishing, the original farmers' almanac? No. It and we are the two surviving U.S. almanacs from Colonial times. Even Ben Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* wasn't the original. In 1800, there were more almanacs in America than there were newspapers.

What's the weirdest question you get asked? If I have inside info on UFOs.

And the most frequent question? "What will the weather be like on my wedding day?" • KATHLEEN DOANE

FYI Tickets: \$20. Wed & Thurs 11 am, Kings Island's Paramount Theatre, 6300 Kings Island Dr., Kings Island; Wed 8 pm, Sycamore Junior High School Auditorium, 5757 Cooper Rd., Blue Ash, (513) 684-1632.

LINTON CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Feb 12 & 13: Jon Kimura Parker, William Preucil, Eric Kim, and Aloysia Friedmann. **Tickets:** \$10-\$30, Sun 4 pm. First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton St., Walnut Hills. Mon 7:30 pm. Congregation Ohav Shalom, 8100 Cornell Rd., Montgomery, (513) 381-6868.

CINCINNATI POPS ORCHESTRA

Feb 17-19: *In Shall We Dance?*, the orchestra performs while champion ballroom dancers strut their stuff. **Tickets:** \$22-\$84.50. Fri & Sat 8 pm, Sun 7 pm. Music Hall, 1241 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine, (513) 381-5300.

SAINT PETER IN CHAINS CATHEDRAL CONCERTS

Feb 26: The King's Singers. **Tickets:** \$32-\$35. Sun 3 pm. St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, 325 W. Eighth St., downtown, (513) 421-2222.

jazz

BLUE WISP BIG BAND

Feb 1-22: Legendary band plays long-standing Wednesday night gig. **Admission:** \$8. Wed 9:30 pm, 318 E. Eighth St., downtown, (513) 241-WISP.

JAZZ AT THE HYATT

Feb 3-24: Local and national jazz artists, including guitarist Larry Coryell, perform in the Hyatt's Sunsgarden Lounge. Fri 8 pm. Hyatt Regency Cincinnati, 151 W. Fifth St., downtown, www.jazzincincy.com.

HARRY ALLEN

Feb 9 & 10: New York saxophonist plays. **Admission:** \$8. Thurs & Fri 9:30 pm. Blue Wisp Jazz Club, 318 E. Eighth St., downtown, (513) 241-WISP.

MIGUEL ZENON QUARTET

Feb 10: Popular saxophonist with the San Francisco Jazz Collective brings fusion of jazz and Latin rhythms to Dayton. **Tickets:** \$15. Fri 8 pm. Dayton Art Institute, 456 Belmar Park North, Dayton, (937) 496-3863.

NORTHSIDE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Feb 13 & 27: Neighborhood jazz collective featuring bassist Mike Scharfe. Mon 9 pm. Northside Tavern, 4163 Hamilton Ave., Northside, (513) 542-3603, www.northside-tavern.com.

COHESION JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Feb 24: Jazz Alive's monthly series concludes with this well-known area jazz collective. **Tickets:** \$12. Fri 8 pm. Fairfield Community Arts Center Theater, 411 Wessel Dr., Fairfield, (513) 867-5348.

GENE WALKER

Feb 24 & 25: Columbus saxophonist plays. **Admission:** \$6. Fri & Sat 9:30 pm. Blue Wisp Jazz Club, 318 E. Eighth St., downtown, (513) 241-WISP.

RHYTHM 'N' BLUE ASH

Feb 25: Raymond Walters College closes its music series with "The Latin Side of Miles Davis & John Coltrane" featuring Conrad Herwig and Brian Lynch. **Tickets:** \$10-\$15. Sat 8 pm. RWC Theater, 9555 Plainfield Rd., Blue Ash, (513) 745-5705.

nightlife

LYRICAL INSURRECTION

Feb 1-22: Spoken word showcase features an open mic session and special appearances by mu-

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Social DATEBOOK

2006 guide to charity events in **CincinnatiUSA**

FEB.

ONE NIGHT STAND

sical guests. Wed 8 pm. The Greenwich, 2440 Gilbert Ave., Walnut Hills, (513) 221-1151.

SWEAT SESSIONS

Feb 1-22: Dance night featuring local drum and bass masters Troll & Mowgli. Wed 10 pm. Clique, 6 W. Pike St., Covington, www.clique-lounge.com.

DV805

Feb 4, 11, & 18: DJs spin modern rock, new wave, and classic alternative. **Admission:** \$3. Sat 10 pm. alchemize, 1122 Walnut St., Over-the-Rhine, www.alchemizebar.com.

LATIN DANCE NIGHT

Feb 6-27: Start the work week with some salsa and merengue from local Latin band Tropicoso. **Admission:** \$5. Mon 10 pm. The Mad Frog, 1 E. McMillan St., Corryville, (513) 784-9119.

SONGWRITER NIGHT

Feb 7-28: Weekly songwriters forum hosted by musician Eric Diedrichs. Tue 9:30 pm. Allyn's Cafe, 3538 Columbia Pkwy., Columbia-Tusculum, (513) 871-5779.

THE VIBE

Feb 11: Monthly spoken word showcase highlights the city's poetry scene. **Admission:** \$5. Sat 9 pm. Crash on Main, Union Station Video Café, 825 Main St., downtown, (513) 651-2667.

GIRLS & BOYS NIGHT

Feb 25: Monthly event features DJ collaborative Boy Radio. **Admission:** \$5. Sat 9 pm. alchemize, 1122 Walnut St., Over the Rhine, www.alchemizebar.com.



PLAYING
2.16.06

The Icelanders Cometh

Not since Björk has Iceland produced a mainstream pop-rock export like **SIGUR RÓÐ**. The foursome, who play the Taft this month, may have spent the last 12 years crafting their mysterious sound, but it's their laid-back approach that has critics raving. **Takk** (Geffen Records) is the first release to feature any sort-of comprehensible lyrics (albeit in the group's native tongue). But there's no need to feel left out. The infectiously moody music manages to hold its own with hypnotic falsettos and sensuous string work. **Read: No Icelandic-English dictionary required.**

• KATHERINE LOUISE

FYI Tickets: \$32. Thurs 8 pm. Taft Theatre, 317 E. Fifth St., downtown, (513) 721-8883.



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pop/concerts

ELECTRIC FRANKENSTEIN

Feb 2: Punk band plays Newport. **Tickets:** \$10-\$12. Thurs 9:30 pm, Southgate House, 24 E. Third St., Newport, (859) 431-2201.

DAVID BROMBERG QUARTET

Feb 3: Folkster comes to town. **Tickets:** \$25-\$30. Fri 9 pm, Southgate House, 24 E. Third St., Newport, (859) 431-2201.

BUSHWALLA

Feb 3: Acoustic rocker brings radio-friendly sound to town. **Tickets:** \$6-\$8. Fri 10 pm. The Poison Room, 301 W. Fifth St., downtown, (513) 333-0010.

BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Feb 9: Former fuzz rock aficionados whistle a bluesier tune on latest release, *Howl*. **Tickets:** \$15. Thurs 8 pm. Bogarts, 2621 Vine St., Corryville, (513) 281-8400.

LESS JAKE

Feb 10: Ska band rocks the Queen City. **Tickets:** \$17. Fri 8:30 pm. Bogarts, 2621 Vine St., Corryville, (513) 281-8400.

NINE INCH NAILS

Feb 25: Popular post-grunge rock band performs hits. **Tickets:** \$35-\$42.50. Sat 8 pm. U.S. Bank Arena, 100 Broadway St., downtown, (513) 421-4111.

opera & dance

BRIDGMAN/PACKER DANCE

Feb 3 & 4: Presented by the Contemporary Dance

Theatre. **Tickets:** \$22-\$27. Fri & Sat 8:30 pm. Jarson-Kaplan Theater, Aronoff Center for the Arts, 650 Walnut St., downtown, (513) 621-2787.

DESERT GHOST

Feb 17 & 18, 24 & 25: Presented by Moving Art Dance Company, Cincinnati's only resident contemporary dance company. **Admission:** \$10. Fri & Sat 8 pm. Contemporary Dance Theatre, 1805 Larch Ave., College Hill, www.movingartdance.com.

theater

SEX AT THE 'BOX 2006

Feb 1-4: Presented by Shadowbox Cabaret. **Tickets:** \$10-\$12. Wed-Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 7:30 & 10:30 pm. Shadowbox Cabaret, One Levee Way, Newport, (859) 957-ROCK (7625).

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

Feb 3 & 4: Presented by The Wyoming Players. **Tickets:** \$10-\$12. Fri & Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. Wyoming Civic Center, 1 Worthington Ave., Wyoming, (513) 588-4910.

KINDERTRANSPORT

Feb 3-12: Presented by Ovation Theatre Company. **Tickets:** \$14-\$18. Wed-Fri 8 pm, Sat 4 & 8 pm. Aronoff Center for the Arts, 650 Walnut St., downtown, www.cincinnatiovation.com.

THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT

Thru Feb 4: Presented by The Know Theatre Tribe. **Tickets:** \$15-\$20. Thurs-Sat 8 pm. Gabriel's Corner, 1425 Sycamore St., Over-the-Rhine, (513) 300-KNOW.

GOLDA'S BALCONY

Thru Feb 5: Presented by Broadway in Cincinnati. Call for prices and show times. Procter & Gamble Hall, Aronoff Center for the Arts, 650 Walnut St., downtown, (800) 294-1816.

ON GOLDEN POND

Thru Feb 5: Presented by Covedale Center for the Performing Arts. **Tickets:** \$18-\$20. Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. 4990 Glenway Ave., Covedale, (513) 241-6553.

THE PUBLIC EYE

Feb 9-12: Presented by the Mad Anthony Theatre Company. **Tickets:** \$6-\$15. Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. The Fitton Center for the Arts, 101 S. Monmouth Ave., Hamilton, (513) 863-8873.

ALBERT HERRING

Feb 9-12: Presented by the College Conservatory of Music's Mainstage Series. Call for ticket prices. Thurs & Fri 8 pm, Sat 2:30 & 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Patricia Corbett Theater, CCM Village, UC Main Campus, Clifton Heights, (513) 556-4183.

THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP

Feb 10-25: Presented by the Falcon Theatre Company. **Tickets:** \$12-\$15. Fri & Sat 8 pm. Monmouth Theatre, 636 Monmouth St., Newport, www.falcontheatre.net.

THOM PAIN (BASED ON NOTHING)

Thru Feb 12: Presented by Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati. **Tickets:** \$16-\$32. Tues 7:30 pm, Wed-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. 1127 Vine St., downtown, (513) 421-3555.



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Sat 2:30 & 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Cohen Family Studio Theater, CCM Village, UC Main Campus, Clifton Heights, (513) 556-4183.

A CHORUS LINE

Feb 16-26: Presented by the NKU Theatre and Dance Department. **Tickets:** \$5-\$10. Tues-Sat 8 pm, Sun 3 pm. Corbett Theatre, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, (859) 572-5464.

LOVE, SEX & THE IRS

Feb 16-March 5: Presented by The Footlighters, Inc. **Tickets:** \$17. Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 7 pm. Stained Glass Theatre, 802 York St., Newport, (859) 291-7464 (SING).

NUNSENSE II

Feb 16-March 5: Presented by Covedale Center for the Performing Arts. **Tickets:** \$18-\$20. Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. 4990 Glenway Ave., Covedale, (513) 241-6550.

JULIUS CAESAR

Feb 16-March 12: Presented by Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival. **Tickets:** \$18-\$22. Thurs-Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 2 pm. Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival, 719 Race St., downtown, (513) 381-2273.

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Feb 23-26 & March 2-5: Presented by the College-Conservatory of Music's Mainstage Series. Call for ticket prices. Thurs & Fri 8 pm, Sat 2:30 and 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Patricia Corbett Theater, CCM Village, UC Main Campus, Clifton Heights, (513) 556-4183.

THE CRUCIBLE

Feb 24-March 5: Presented by the Rising Phoenix Theatre Company. **Tickets:** \$10-\$19.50. Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. Temple Arts Center, 4 N. Main St., Middletown, (513) 705-4131.

THE CLEAN HOUSE

Thru Feb 24: Presented by Playhouse in the Park. **Tickets:** \$36.50-\$22.50. Tues & Wed 7:30 pm, Thurs & Fri 8 pm, Sat 5 & 9 pm, Sun 2 & 7 pm. Marx Theater, Playhouse in the Park, 962 Mt. Adams Circle, Mt. Adams, (513) 421-3888.

kid stuff

THE ELEPHANT'S CHILD

Feb 4: Raymond Walters College's ARTageous Saturdays presents a theatrical interpretation of this Rudyard Kipling classic. **Admission:** \$5. Sat 11 am & 2 pm. RWC Theater, 9555 Plainfield Rd., Blue Ash, (513) 745-5705.

ROSENTHAL NEXT GENERATION THEATRE SERIES FOR CHILDREN

Feb 18: *Anansi, Brer Rabbit, and The Barking Mouse: Tales of Tricksters and Wise Fools*. **Feb 25:** *A One-Man Detour to Hilarity*. **Tickets:** \$5-\$6. Sat 10:30 am & 2 pm. Rosenthal Plaza, Playhouse in the Park, 962 Mt. Adams Circle, Mt. Adams, (513) 421-3888.

PEANUT BUTTER & JAM SESSIONS

Feb 18-25: Linton Music continues its children's series with *Mozart, Mozart, Mozart!*, a celebration honoring the anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 250th birthday. Featuring The Azmari Quartet. **Admission:** \$4. Sat 10 & 11:30 am. **Feb 18:** Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church, 6474 Beechmont Ave., Mt. Washington. **Feb 25:** Wyoming Fine Arts Center, 322 Wyoming Ave., Wyoming, (513) 381-6868.

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2006 guide to charity events in Cincinnati USA



15 minutes

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① Local celebrities served drinks and area musicians performed at the "World's Largest Office Party." The Young Professionals of the American Cancer Society helped organize the fundraiser, Q102's Jeff Thomas and Jennifer Fritch with Alan Kendricks.

② Legacies hit the \$1 million dollar sales mark for the first time ever on Wednesday, 1/28. Located in Hyde Park Plaza, the home furnishings donation and consignment store assists The Wellness Community. Legacies volunteers Carol Pearce and Susan Gushulak with \$1 million customer David Gardner.

③ Thanks to the leadership of Jim and Sara Ellerhorst, the 2005 United Way campaign met its financial goal, raising \$618,000.

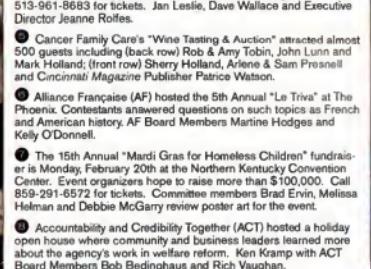
④ Kids Voting of Southwest Ohio welcomes the political comedy troupe, the Capitol Steps, to its Friday, February 24th fundraiser. The event also includes a silent auction and dinner-by-the-bite. Call 513-961-8683 for tickets. Jan Leslie, Dave Wallace and Executive Director Jeanne Roifes.

⑤ Cancer Family Care's "Wine Tasting & Auction" attracted almost 500 guests including (back row) Rob & Amy Tobin, John Lunn and Mark Holland; (front row) Sherry Holland, Arlene & Sam Fresenell and Cincinnati Magazine Publisher Patrice Watson.

⑥ Alliance Française (AF) hosted the 5th Annual "Le Triv" at The Phoenix. Contestants answered questions on such topics as French and American history. AF Board Members Martine Hodges and Kelly O'Donnell.

⑦ The 15th Annual "Mardi Gras for Homeless Children" fundraiser is Monday, February 20th at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center. Event organizers hope to raise more than \$100,000. Call 859-291-6572 for tickets. Committee members Brad Ervin, Melissa Helman and Debbie McGarry review poster art for the event.

⑧ Accountability and Credibility Together (ACT) hosted a holiday open house where community and business leaders learned more about the agency's work in welfare reform. Ken Kramp with ACT Board Members Bob Bedinghaus and Rich Vaughan.





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QUARTERLY REPORT

VOL. 2, ISSUE 2

A message from Drs. Kereiakes & Young

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Lindner Center Quarterly Report, a publication dedicated to providing you with insights to keep you healthy. In this report, the benefits and risks of estrogen-hormone replacement therapy (HRT) in women is discussed by a nationally recognized authority on this subject, Dr. Charles Glueck. Although HRT has been widely prescribed for a multitude of perimenopausal "ills," the proven benefits of such therapy have been limited only to a reduction in vasomotor flushing ("hot flashes," sweats) and vaginal dryness, as well as to an increase in bone mineral density. Fortunately, vasomotor flushing is usually self-limited (eight to 12 months) and alternative therapies exist for enhancing bone strength. In addition, the risks associated with HRT are formidable, particularly for women who smoke or who have a genetic/hereditary predisposition to form blood clots. HRT can promote blood clot formation and may increase the incidence of heart attack, stroke, pulmonary embolus and deep vein thrombosis. HRT-related clot formation can also cause vision loss and blindness as we learn from an interview with noted Cincinnati ophthalmologist, Dr. Robert K. Hutchins. Although most women are not evaluated for risk of clotting prior to treatment with HRT, the most frequently occurring hereditary thrombophilias (tendencies to form blood clots) may be detected by a simple blood test. Our purpose is to educate our readers as to the objective benefits of HRT as well as the established risk of treatment, and to provide them with the knowledge to be screened adequately so that an informed decision regarding HRT can be made.

This report coincides with the American Heart Association's "Heart Month" and the "Go Red" campaign for recognition of cardiovascular disease in women. These educational efforts are focused on increasing public awareness of the signs and symptoms of cardiovascular disease in women, as well as the specific options available for treatment. Hopefully, education will enable each of us to more actively participate in our own wellness, as well as care. It was Aristotle who once said, "Education is the best provision for old age" (Aristotle, quoted in *Diogenes Laertius, Lives of Eminent Philosophers*). More information on HRT and blood clot-related disorders is available at the following Web site: <http://www.jewishhospitalcincinnati.com/cholesterol/index.html>, or email to glueckch@healthall.com.

In addition, we urge you to discuss these matters with your personal physician. We hope that the knowledge you've gained will make a difference in your life or that of a loved one.

In good health,

Dean J. Kereiakes, M.D.
Medical Director, The Heart
Center of Greater Cincinnati
at the Christ Hospital; Medical
Director of the Lindner Center

John J. Young, M.D.
Associate Medical Director
of The Lindner Center



The risks and benefits of hormone replacement therapy

BY CHARLES J. GLUECK, M.D.

What every man and woman should know

It was a long-held belief in the medical community that estrogen was the cure for much that ailed women during and after menopause. Because menopause signals a drop in the body's natural estrogen, doctors believed that replacing the estrogen with estrogen hormone replacement therapy (HRT) protected a woman against many of the conditions she might face later in life.

During menopause, estrogen was prescribed to combat hot flashes and night sweats. Post menopause, estrogen's benefits were thought to extend to protecting against osteoporosis, heart disease, stroke and possibly even dementia or depression.

In the past decade, however, several major studies have proven not only that the benefits of hormone replacement therapy are limited, but that HRT carries substantial risks. Any HRT treatment program should now involve a careful analysis of both the benefits and the risks.

The benefits

Despite the extensive list of possible benefits, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has currently approved HRT only for the relief of the following symptoms (Figure 1):

- **Vasomotor symptoms.** Estrogen effectively relieves the hot flashes and night sweats associated with menopause, which for some women can be quite debilitating. At this time, there are no uniformly effective substitutes.
- **Vulvovaginal atrophy symptoms.** Estrogen also relieves vaginal dryness and thinning of the vaginal walls. Again, there are no uniformly effective substitutes.
- **Osteoporosis-related fractures.** The reduction of estrogen during menopause leads to some bone loss, so doctors prescribe estrogen to prevent osteoporosis. In this case, there are effective substitutes, including Fosamax, Actonel and Evista.

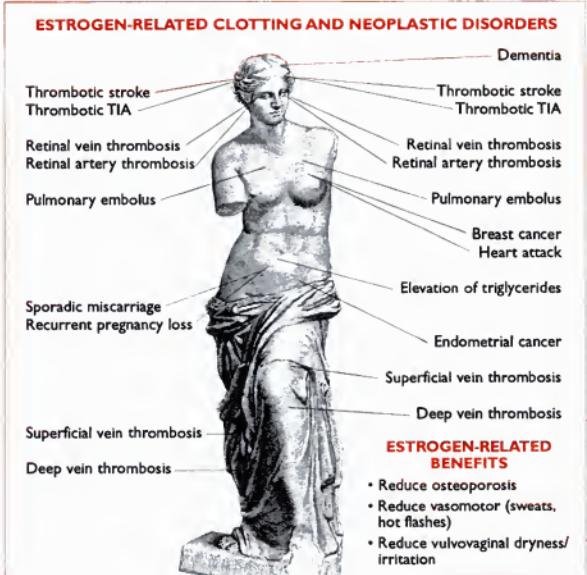
The risks: blood clots

Because estrogen diminishes the body's naturally occurring blood thinners, HRT is associated with an increased tendency to form blood clots, or thromboses. When estrogens are given to women in the general population, they increase the likelihood of the following events (Figure 1):

- thrombotic stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA), caused by an arterial blood clot in the brain
- retinal vein thrombosis or retinal artery thrombosis, caused by venous or arterial blood clots in the eye, sharply reducing vision and occasionally leading to blindness
- pulmonary emboli, caused by venous blood clots usually originating in the legs or abdomen and traveling to the lungs. These are very dangerous and up to 40 percent of patients with pulmonary emboli die as a result of the acute event.
- superficial and deep vein thrombosis in the legs, which may travel to the lungs and cause a pulmonary embolus

Cigarette smoking sharply increases the estrogen-induced clotting tendencies, which raises the risk of heart attack or stroke. The risk of blood clots is also elevated for women who have common inherited or acquired clotting abnormalities (Figure 2). When the increased risk of blood clotting associated with estrogens (or pregnancy) is added to a genetic hereditary clotting disorder, the risk of developing a blood clot is strikingly increased, often by as much as 10 to 20 times.

FIGURE 1



THE LINDNER CENTER QUARTERLY REPORT

VOL. 2, ISSUE 1

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The Lindner Center's Quarterly Report mission is to educate the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky community about heart and cardiovascular research, treatment and prevention. The Lindner Center for Research and Education is affiliated with The Ohio Heart & Vascular Center and the Heart Center of Greater Cincinnati at the Christ Hospital. The Lindner Center's address is 2123 Auburn Avenue, Suite 424, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45219. For further information, please contact John J. Young, M.D. at (513) 585-1924 or email young@ohioheart.org.

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Inherited and acquired clotting disorders (Figure 2) may also commonly cause the following obstetrical problems:

- **Sporadic miscarriage.** The normal high estrogens of pregnancy slightly increase every woman's risk of clotting. When this increased risk is added to the already elevated risk associated with an inherited or acquired clotting disorders, there is a substantial risk that blood clots may form in the spiral arteries of the uterus causing placental insufficiency and miscarriage. When women with familial thrombophilia are treated with aspirin alone following a single miscarriage, the likelihood of subsequent live birth is only 26 percent. However, treatment in subsequent pregnancies with the anticoagulant, Lovenox, reduces the risk of pregnancy loss by almost 70 percent.
- **Recurrent miscarriage** (more than three pregnancy losses before 20 weeks), for the same reasons noted above. Again, Lovenox reduces the risk of subsequent pregnancy loss.

The important message is to avoid taking estrogen-HRT if you have a genetic, hereditary predis-

position to clotting. Many physicians suggest that you should be tested for genetic clotting predispositions before taking HRT.

The risks: the WHI study

Much of the new data on the risks of HRT comes from the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) study released in 2002. Before the WHI, data describing the benefits and risks of HRT were based on "observational, epidemiological studies," in which researchers look back at previously collected study information and attempt to draw conclusions.

The WHI was different in that it was a "prospective, placebo-controlled clinical trial," where women were selected either to receive placebo or hormone replacement therapy and then were observed over time. Prospective controlled clinical trials like WHI are widely regarded as more reliable than epidemiological studies because any benefits or negative outcomes can be shown under more controlled conditions and the results are not likely to be affected by patient selection bias or chance alone. Because of this fundamental difference between controlled clinical trials and epidemiologic observational studies, the data from WHI and subsequent controlled studies have drastically changed our understanding of HRT in the following areas:

CORONARY HEART DISEASE (CHD): THE RISK OF HEART ATTACK—16,608 postmenopausal women, ages 50 to 79, were given either HRT or placebo. After follow-up at about five years, researchers terminated the trial because the risk of treatment exceeded any apparent benefit. The study concluded that estrogen-progestin treatment does not protect against heart attacks and may actually increase the risk of CHD, especially in the first year after starting HRT.

Further, HRT showed no benefit for Primary Prevention (reduction in risk for CHD among women with no history of CHD). With regard to Secondary Prevention (reduction in risk for CHD events in women who have already been diagnosed with CHD), other studies, such as the HERs and ERA trials, showed no difference in heart attacks or other cardiovascular problems between patients taking HRT and placebo. These data refute any benefit of HRT for secondary prevention.

THE RISK OF STROKE—An increase in strokes was apparent among all the women in the WHI study—all age groups, all categories of baseline stroke risk, women with or without a history of hypertension, CHD, prior use of HRT, cholesterol-lowering medications or aspirin.

A subsequent study (the WEST trial) showed neutral results with no increase or decrease in the incidence of stroke.

THE RISK OF BREAST CANCER—Estrogens increase the risk of developing breast cancer by about 2.7 percent per year so that cumulative risk is increased by about 15 percent after five years. Longer duration use of either estrogen alone or estrogen in combination with progestin increase the risk of breast cancer and this risk is greatest for the combination therapy. Unresolved issues remain regarding the dose of HRT and its relationship to breast cancer risk and about which patients may safely take short-term HRT

for the relief of hot flashes during menopause.

THE RISK OF GYNECOLOGICAL CANCER

Longer term HRT may increase the risk of ovarian cancer. Estrogen therapy (without concurrent progestin treatment) sharply increases the risk of endometrial cancer. Furthermore, it leads to an increase in the need for exploratory biopsies to assess vaginal bleeding that may result from the treatment.

THE RISK OF DEMENTIA—The WHI study demonstrated that women over 64 years old were at twice the risk for all causes of dementia with either estrogen alone or estrogen plus progestin therapy. Neither therapy provided any benefit for the normal cognitive decline of aging.

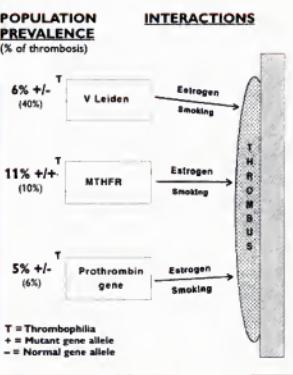
THE BENEFIT OF IMPROVED BONE DENSITY—WHI confirmed that HRT increases bone mineral density and reduces the risk of fracture in all women in the study.

What should you do?

- Never take HRT if you're a woman with a known inherited or acquired coagulation disorder or if you have suffered a previous major blood clot. Estrogen blockers, such as Evista, Tamoxifen and Arimidex, should be given cautiously (if at all) in the same situations. To the clotting system, these medicines look like estrogens.
- Almost never take HRT if you're a woman who smokes. The risks of estrogen-related side effects are too high for smokers.
- Talk to your doctor about taking HRT to prevent and treat osteoporosis. Estrogen improves bone density and reduces fractures, but medications such as Fosamax and Actonel offer the same benefits without the risk of major side effects (Figure 1).
- Find alternative therapies for prevention of heart attack and stroke. Treat cholesterol with statins and elevated triglycerides with fibril acids. Treat hypertension and diabetes aggressively. Do not use estrogens as an approach to prevent heart attack and stroke.
- Reduce the risk of blood clots. If there is a family history of blood clots, or a history of sporadic or recurrent miscarriage, measure the Factor V Leiden and Prothrombin gene mutations before giving HRT.
- Make an informed decision about estrogen therapy during and after menopause. The vasomotor symptoms of estrogen withdrawal (hot flashes and night sweats) last on average for about 12 months. If they are intolerable, take estrogen for a limited period of time (less than five years) if careful screening reveals no hereditary/genetic predisposition to clotting.

For more information regarding the potential risks or benefits of hormone replacement therapy or how you can be effectively screened for hereditary-genetic risk factors for clotting, please access the following Web site <http://www.jewish-hospital.cincinnati.com/cholesterol/index.html>, or email Dr. Glueck at glueckch@healthbar.com. An extensive reference list is available from Dr. Glueck via email.

FIGURE 2



Patches, pills and plants

Despite the hopes, there's no evidence to suggest that HRT patches, creams and plant-derived estrogens are safer than the traditional HRT therapies. Overall, the risks are similar for patches, pills and vaginal creams; there are no major differences in the likelihood of blood clotting or major estrogen-related side effects based on the method of delivery. Not enough is known about the safety of plant estrogens (phytoestrogens), but in general, if regular estrogens pose a risk, phytoestrogens are probably no safer.



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CLOTS in the eye

A Q & A with Robert K. Hutchins, M.D.,

Vitreoretinal Surgical Services, Cincinnati Eye Institute and Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Q: What is retinal vein or artery thrombosis?

A: A thrombus is a blood clot that may develop in either an artery or a vein. Once a clot forms, blood flow through the tissue or organ is either partially or completely blocked. The lack of blood flow disrupts the normal functioning of the organ and eventually causes part or all of the tissue of the organ to wither or die. With regard to the retina, a retinal artery thrombosis causes sudden (within minutes to hours) loss of vision and rapid death of the retinal cells. Retinal vein thrombosis progresses more slowly, over days or months.

For the purposes of this discussion, I will limit my remarks to retinal vein thromboses since they are far more common than retinal artery thromboses. A central retinal vein thrombosis (typically referred to as a central retinal vein occlusion or CRVO) occurs when a clot develops within the main vein that drains the blood from the retina. As a result, the blood backs up and pressure builds within all the smaller retinal veins as well as the smallest blood vessels called capillaries. Blood escapes from the capillaries that are damaged by the high pressure and collects in the retinal layers. The swollen and blood-saturated retinal tissue no longer functions effectively to detect the light images that make up our vision.

Q: What are the signs and symptoms?

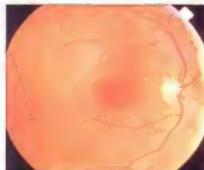
A: A retinal vein thrombosis can be mild or severe, depending on the extent to which the clot blocks blood flow in the vein. Patients with a mild CRVO may complain of an annoying blur in the center of their vision that develops over days to weeks. Patients with a severe vein occlusion may notice a decline in vision that develops over hours to days. The center of vision becomes darkened and very hazy, making it impossible to read. When examined, the retinal veins appear distended because of the pressure building within. The retina is swollen and is full of red blood. Patches of retinal whitening are indicative of poor blood flow.

Q: What should people do if they think they have developed this problem?

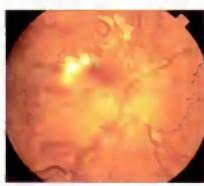
A: The symptoms of a CRVO overlap with the symptoms produced by several other retinal disorders. Therefore, a good rule of thumb is that any person who experiences a new visual symptom should promptly seek the attention of an eye doctor. If diagnosed with CRVO, the patient will need a complete evaluation in order to identify any condition that could have contributed to clot formation. The Eye Disease Case-Control Study Group published a report in 1996 that identified high blood pressure, diabetes mellitus and glaucoma as being risk factors for a CRVO. More recently, inherited tendencies, or what we may refer to as major-gene thrombophilias (genetic predispositions to clot), are increasingly being recognized as very important causes of venous thrombosis. Blood testing for acquired or inherited thrombophilia should be encouraged in a patient with a thrombosis, especially younger patients.

Q: How does estrogen replacement predispose to retinal blood clots?

A: We have natural anticoagulants in our blood (Protein C, Protein S and Antithrombin-III) that guard against abnormal clot formation. Estrogen diminishes the availability of these anticoagulants making it more likely for a person to develop a clot. The danger is compounded in a person who has an undiagnosed major-gene thrombophilia. For these individuals, estrogen may be "the straw that broke the camel's back" resulting in the development of a clot.



Normal retina



Retina affected by CRVO

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go red for women

well-rounded info for healthy hearts

Since its launch in February 2004, Go Red for Women has become the premier women's health movement of the decade. The campaign continues to have an enormous impact on CincinnatiUSA communities. By a concerted effort to raise public awareness, the campaign drives home the message to women that heart disease is their leading cause of death... a fact most women still do not take to heart. Go Red for Women harnesses women's energy, passion and power to band together and collectively wipe out heart disease.

With the support of some of the most outstanding physicians, researchers, scientists, innovators and business leaders in the nation, CincinnatiUSA continues to be in the forefront of the American Heart Association's mission to fight heart disease and stroke. We will also continue to support the Go Red for Women campaign, as well as new cause campaigns, such as Power to End Stroke, a stroke awareness program for the African American community and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a campaign to fight childhood obesity.

As we enter year three of Go Red for Women, the American Heart Association encourages women to love their hearts by visiting their healthcare provider to learn how to incorporate heart-healthy habits into their daily lives. As you read this special section, we hope you will join us as we Go Red and take the right steps to learn and live.

To learn more about the American Heart Association, visit www.americanheart.org or call 1-800-MY-HEART.

CincinnatiUSA calendar of events

National Wear Red Day for Women

February 3

Get out your red dress, scarf, sweater or tie in support of Go Red for Women!

Red Dress Sundays

Throughout February

Search Your Heart churches support Go Red for Women by wearing red and educating congregations about heart health.

Dance for Heart

February 4 & 5

Dance groups perform and raise money for the American Heart Association at Florence Mall.

Heart's Desire Party

February 9

Cincinnati's hottest Valentine's Day party at the Red Cheetah.

Heart Ball

March 4

Black-tie gala with dinner, dancing, silent and live auctions at the Hyatt Regency.

Mercy Heart Mini-Marathon

March 25 & 26

Health & Fitness Expo, 5K & 15K runs, 5K & 10K walks and 2K kid's run all in downtown Cincinnati.

Go Red for Women Empowerment Luncheon

April 28

Luncheon with health screenings and exhibits. Guest speaker will be award-winning actress Jane Seymour at the Cincinnati Marriott North in West Chester.

Reds Stroke Awareness night

May TBA

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profile: margaret davis and daughter, nikki mills-clark



As a practical nurse, Margaret Davis knows how to keep her patients healthy, but like many busy working women, is the last to think about herself. When the 55-year-old mother of three couldn't keep up with her normal pace, she thought it was stress or that she just wasn't getting enough exercise.

"I was tired and couldn't do things that I was used to doing," she says. She started an exercise program and stopped smoking—two proactive ways she hoped would ease her shortness of breath.

After a doctor diagnosed her with bronchitis and treatment measures didn't seem to help, Margaret's daughter Nikki Mills-Clark, who works at the American Heart Association, saw the signs, but never thought it could happen to her mother.

About nine months after she began to feel unwell, Margaret knew that her daughter had

been right. When she couldn't breathe one night, she made the bold decision to go to the emergency room. Doctors there discovered that her blood pressure was very high and admitted her for additional tests.

Margaret spent 10 days in the hospital and tests showed that she had already suffered a heart attack and didn't even know it! A stint put into her badly blocked heart would not work, so her doctors called for a pacemaker.

"It's not until you have a family member with a heart attack that you can really understand," says Mills-Clark.

Today, a healthier Davis believes that her pacemaker talks to her—it reminds her that she needs to take better care of herself. Mother and daughter recently joined an exercise club and go every week, together. "It makes me appreciate things more," she explains.

—*Jessica Dalsing*

profile: meredith schroeder

Twenty-seven-year-old Meredith Schroeder was busy preparing for her June wedding, balancing her planning duties with her job as an elementary school teacher. But in the mids of the happy if slightly stressful days, Meredith discovered an item she never expected to find on her to-do list.

Two months before she was to walk down the aisle, Meredith came home from work with what she thought was a migraine headache. She took headache medicine and went to bed, but when she woke up, she was unable to focus her eyes—she had no depth perception and her side vision was distorted.

An emergency trip to her family doctor, who thought she might have

had a stroke, led to an MRI. He also referred her to a neurologist, who suspected the problem involved her heart.

A round of tests showed that Meredith had at least one hole between the top two chambers of her heart, a condition usually discovered in infancy called an Atrial Septal Defect. Because the condition existed from birth, a cardiologist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center treated Meredith, at that point far older than other patients on her floor. After two operations to seal the holes in her heart, Meredith said "I do" last June. Despite the blood thinners she takes to prevent blood clots and occasional doctor visits, she looks forward to a healthy happily ever after.

—*Jessica Dalsing*



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profile: tammy hart fales

Last July 21 began like any other summer evening for 42-year-old Tammy Hart Fales. She sat down for dinner with her husband and daughter when her husband noticed that Tammy looked different—one side of her face was drooping and her speech was slurred.

Tammy's thoughts immediately flashed back to a committee meeting for the Heart Ball, an American Heart Association event for which she volunteered her time and energy. The active community advocate remembered a card she'd read about signs of a stroke, symptoms that felt all too real to her at that moment. Thinking fast, she got to the hospital. After two days and many tests, she

was diagnosed with Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA). Similar to a stroke, a TIA lasts only a few minutes before the blood starts flowing in your body again. TIAs are difficult to diagnose because in most cases, patients do not realize they are having one.

Tammy looks at the TIA as a "kick in the pants." Just a week earlier she had told friends that she needed to take better care of herself. Knowing that both her father and mother died of heart disease, Tammy started to make heart-healthy life changes. She exercises and works to reduce stress. For Tammy, healthy living is a family affair—she plans on watching her 4-year-old daughter Kyra grow up healthy and strong.

—*Jessica Dalsing*



profile: wendy dean

Five days before her 36th birthday in May of 2004, Wendy Dean found herself living through one of those mornings when nothing goes right.

She and her husband had a spat. She had a migraine with no time to sleep it off. She took some medicine and began working on a vegetable tray for a baby shower she planned to attend that afternoon. Thinking food might help, she grabbed a carrot from the tray. Then came the worst—pressure in her chest, vomiting and cold sweats. Her husband immediately called 911.

Doctors discovered that about 70 percent of Wendy's left anterior descending artery was blocked—she had

had a heart attack. She sees the attack as a critical warning. Though she has always considered herself a healthy eater, Wendy pays even more attention to her diet and has started regular exercise. She walks three miles a day.

Most importantly, she made sure that her two young daughters, Becca and Sarah, had their cholesterol checked. Sarah, who is only 7, is now on medication to keep her cholesterol at healthy levels.

—*Jessica Dalsing*



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Q&A: women's heart health



Judith K. Mickelson, MD, FACC

Partner, Cardiology Associates of Cincinnati, Inc.

Q: What facts do women need to know about heart disease and stroke?

A: Heart disease continues to be the leading cause of death in women, both in the United States and throughout most of the world. Heart disease usually becomes evident in women about a decade later than men; the risk factors are present and prevention must be addressed much earlier.

Younger women (<55 years old) have a worse prognosis from acute myocardial infarction than their male counterparts. Older men and women (>80 years old) have an increased mortality compared with younger patients.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States for both men and women. Fully 25 percent of women under 65 years of age will die within one year of having a stroke. Warning signs of stroke include sudden weakness or numbness of the face or limb, difficulty with speech or understanding speech, sudden dimness or loss of vision, sudden severe headache with nausea and vomiting, and rarely, passing out, seizure or falling. Half of strokes caused by blood clots from the heart are related to an abnormal heart rhythm called atrial fibrillation. Women with atrial fibrillation have a higher risk of stroke than men; Warfarin or Coumadin is more effective in preventing strokes in women with atrial fibrillation than men. All the risk factors for coronary heart disease apply to stroke plus several others.

Risk factors for cardiovascular disease and stroke are similar for men and women, but specifically for women they include age over 55 years, postmenopausal status, family history of premature coronary heart disease, smoking (associated with one-half of all coronary events in women), high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes (increases risk of stroke twofold for all, and the risk of coronary disease fourfold for women compared to non-diabetic patients), peripheral vascular disease, chronic kidney disease, obesity and sedentary lifestyle.

There are things women can do to modify risk factors. Aging is inevitable but reading, writing, communicating, playing games and staying active both mentally and physically seem to delay the process. Stop smoking or help a friend/family member stop smoking. Don't let someone blow smoke on you, your children or your grandchildren. See your family doctor. Cincinnati is blessed with great primary care physicians. They can help you identify and treat all the risk factors. If an issue arises they will help you find a specialist.



Manisha Patel, MD

Cardiac, Vascular and Thoracic Surgeons, Inc.

Q: Are there any myths about heart disease and stroke that you can help dispel for women?

A: Coronary artery disease (CAD) refers to the build-up of plaque in the coronary arteries preventing adequate blood flow to the heart. This process of atherosclerosis eventually leads to heart attack, damage to the heart muscle and sometimes death. There are many misconceptions regarding CAD—that it's a man's disease, that women are protected from it by hormones, that it's less aggressive in women. Many women, unaware of the risks, are therefore older and sicker once diagnosed.

In actuality, 500,000 women will die of cardiovascular disease this year. Many more will be afflicted by it, and millions are at risk. Since the mid-1980s, more women than men have died of CAD. In fact, it is the number one killer of women, more than all cancers combined. The women at greatest risk are those who are postmenopausal as well as African American women who are 60 percent more likely to die with CAD.

Since symptoms can be less typical and more nonspecific for women, it is critical to keep the risk factors for CAD in mind. The five most important risk factors are family history of CAD, smoking—the most potent risk factor, diabetes—doubles the risk of CAD, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Various related conditions include being postmenopausal, having elevated levels of homocysteine, C-reactive protein and others. Most women have multiple risk factors when diagnosed.

Prevention is essential because CAD can be fatal—two-thirds of women who die suddenly had no previous diagnosis of CAD. Risk factor identification is a good place to start and can most easily be achieved through a medical history review and physical examination by a primary care physician.

Once the risk factors have been pinpointed, modification is imperative. Quitting smoking is the single best first step toward improved heart health. Controlling the high blood sugars seen in diabetes by eating responsibly, taking the proper medication and exercising can also have lasting effects. High blood pressure often responds to weight loss, dietary changes such as sodium restriction or moderation of alcohol intake and appropriate medication. High cholesterol can similarly be controlled with dietary modification and medication as needed. In addition to smoking cessation and weight reduction programs, a physician may recommend certain medications including aspirin, folic acid or certain vitamins.

Every woman should discuss her risk profile with her physician and combine risk factor modification with a judicious diet and exercise to optimize her heart health.

heart health: warning signs

Experts agree that it's important for women and men to know the warning signs for heart attacks and strokes. Seeking treatment right away could just save your life.

Unusual heart attack symptoms common in women include:

- Chest discomfort
- Cold sweats
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Upper body discomfort
- Fatigue
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Abdominal pain

Signs and symptoms of stroke include (think FAST):

- Face numbness or weakness, especially on one side
- Arm numbness or weakness, especially on one side
- Speech slurred or difficulty speaking or understanding
- Time to call 911 if these occur suddenly or are accompanied by loss of vision, balance, dizziness or the worst headache of your life with no known cause, both sudden and severe.

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You've Got Frustration!

How to retaliate against those who ruin e-mail for the rest of us.

There are days when I believe that whoever invented e-mail should be shot. Or at least tied to a chair and forced to eat *Fear Factor* meals—you know, cricket milk shakes and the like—three times a day for, oh, say, five years. Or better still, he should be required to respond to every irritating, moronic piece of digital correspondence that I receive. That's about 100 messages a day, sometimes more. No kidding. Yes, I have spam filters, but as we all know they aren't perfect. What's worse is that most of my spam comes not from purveyors of penile extensions and erectile dysfunction pills but from people I know and, in some cases, love. And I'm about ready to shoot a few of them, too.

To help make the world more sane—and keep me out of prison—I've compiled a list of the 10 most irritating e-mail types polluting the e-mosphere, along with some suggested responses that might help put an end to the lunacy they

ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN MIYAZAKI / REDUX

encourage. Are you committed to eradicating e-mail abuse? Read on, comrade.

THE WANNABE COMEDIAN: People enjoy sharing good jokes and funny anecdotes with friends. I get that. But why is it that the people who are most eager to share are those who can't tell a decent joke from a can of corn?

Some may find a top 10 list of the wackiest things ever said by grocery store bag boys to be a real knee-slapper, but most of us don't. There's nothing less funny than someone who thinks he's funny and isn't. To put an end to such uninvited and unwanted looniness, reply back with a link to something bizarre. For instance, a web site devoted to the inner workings of the human ear (cti.augie.edu/perry/ear/ear.htm) or industrial sewage (www.indiamart.com/enviro-solutions/). Re-title the subject line to read: "This is even funnier."

THE PUSHER: Nothing pleases some folks more than forwarding every forwarded message they receive. But for most of us, it's hard to get excited about a message that has been passed around more than a doobie at a String Cheese Incident concert. I delete them immediately. And yet, the question remains: How do you stop someone who can't resist forwarding a video clip of a water-skiiing chipmunk, or 247 reasons the chicken crossed the road?

Pushers are hard to stop. Sometimes you have to fight fire with fire. I suggest forwarding your Pusher every e-mail you get that isn't private or too revealing. It will take a few days, maybe weeks, before the recipient realizes that you're not reciprocating out of some mutual love for passing along useless e-mails, but that you're making a point. Be forewarned: There are strong odds that your point will be lost on the Pusher.

THE CENTER OF ATTENTION: These digital deviants mistakenly believe that the world gives a damn about everything they do. Dozens of people must be treated to their internal debates over which color to paint their bathroom, where to eat this Saturday night, or whether to join the local fencing club.

Here's an example from an office setting. The boss sends out a note to 75 people reminding them of a meeting slated for later in

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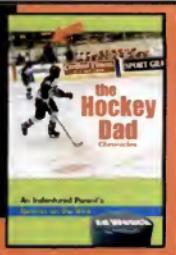
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A SEASON ON THE RINK

What makes a parent think it's a good idea to sign up his only child for a sport that essentially involves "strapping knives on a kid's feet, hurling a hard rubber disc at him, and telling him to smack it with a club"? Ed Wenck sets out to answer that question in THE HOCKEY DAD CHRONICLES, his hilarious tale of one season in his 10-year-old son's hockey career.



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the day. That's fine; the reminder is appreciated, especially by people like me who have likely forgotten. But why does the Center of Attention feel compelled to hit "reply all" and tell everyone he's going to be there? When this happens, I feel compelled to hit "reply all" and send a message like this: "I and the other 45 people copied on this e-mail didn't really need to know that you're planning to attend our afternoon meeting. We also didn't need to know that you are 'looking forward to it' and expect it to be 'most productive.' We're on to your little game, my friend. Oh, yes we are." Or, um, words to that effect.

THE CHICKEN LITTLE: The Chicken Little has never sent a message he didn't think was "high priority." Urgency has nothing to do with it. The e-mail can be as innocuous as "I'm going to lunch early today." Or "Did you know that, according to the Chinese calendar, 2012 will be the Year of the Rabbit?" You can put an end to this behavior by sending a reply asking that he mark his next message as a "high priority" only if he intends to take his own life. That way, you can drop whatever you're doing and

make sure no one interferes.

THE HOARDER: E-mail has only managed to intensify the annoying behavior of anal-retentives. These people save every message they have ever sent or received. Nothing pleases them more than to refresh your memory about an e-mail you sent two years ago that appears to contradict something you said today. "Oh, I'm not trying to embarrass you," the Hoarder will say, "it's just that two years ago, on May 17, at 2:31 p.m., you said that you were against putting a vending machine in the employee kitchen."

One method I've found effective in disarming Hoarders is to put a footer at the bottom of your e-mail that reads: *This e-mail is intended only for its initial recipient(s) and is permitted to be kept on file for seven days. Beyond that point, the e-mail and its contents are considered null and void. Any attempt to reference it is in violation of several privacy laws and may be subject to prosecution.*

THE TEASE: Some people have to inject every subject line with a sense of urgency, intrigue, mystery. These types were born to

write the early evening promos for the 11 o'clock news: *Is there a blizzard coming tonight? Is your kid's school milk tainted with deadly arsenic? Find out at 11.* Teasers are genetically or intellectually incapable of writing a concise, relevant subject line. Instead, they title messages about mundane matters like office potlucks and address changes with such attention-getters as: "Big News!"; "You're Not Going to Believe This!"; and my favorite, "Drop Whatever You're Doing and Read This NOW!!!" Give a Teaser a dose of his or her own medicine. Send an e-mail entitled "Doctors Say My Days Are Numbered!!!" then tell how e-mail aggravation is making your blood pressure rise and will likely lead to a shortened life span.

THE BIG RIGS: These people are the semi-truck drivers of what we used to call the Information Superhighway. They can't seem to send a single message without attaching photographs, PDFs, MP3 files, or video clips. They can't just tell you that they've bought a new a refrigerator. No, they have to send photos, links to the manufacturer's web site, and a few news releases

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Help these e-mail fatties slim down by giving them a dose of their own medicine. Over the course of several weeks, send about 10 e-mails, all with simple one-line messages such as "Hope you're well" or "Have a good day." To each e-mail, attach a dozen articles gleaned from obscure web sites. Here are a few I highly recommend: nppc.org (pork producers), fpif.org (a foreign policy institute), and swingersboard.com (if you have to ask...). For added effect, attach a PowerPoint presentation.

THE NAG: How irritating to open an e-mail only to find a message asking if you received the sender's previous e-mail. Especially when the original message carried such pressing news as a recipe for crepes or a plea to help some poor guy in France who is trying to amass the world's largest collection of uneaten bread crusts before he undergoes a sex change operation.

I have found the best way to deal with these pests is to ignore all their e-mails, even the ones that will eventually arrive with the

subject line reading: "Are you ignoring me?!" Wait until the person calls you to confirm that you're still alive. Lie and tell them that you aren't angry and then share your "new" e-mail address with them—i.e., someone else's. Give it two weeks and leave a message on the Nag's answering machine asking why you haven't heard from them. Then leave a bogus phone number.

THE DECORATOR: These ill-informed correspondents seem to think that I'm going to care more about their e-mail if they use fancy typefaces, put each paragraph in a different color, and perhaps embed a piece of clip art. Leaving no detail unbutchered, Decorators typically like to add cheesy quotes to their automated signatures. No matter what the content of the message, good news or bad, serious or humorous, their chosen quote is included, a reflection of who they are. Usually this means that instead of thought-provoking, insightful quotes you get Successories-like drivel, such as: "Every man is the architect of his own fortune." Or: "You can't catch a fish unless you put your line in the water."

I've found it helpful to reply with a sim-

ple quote of my own. Here are a few goodies: "Less is more."—Robert Browning. Or: "It is the proof of high culture to say the greatest matters in the simplest way."—Emerson. Or: "You bother me."—Steve Kissinger.

THE PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE: Some people aren't comfortable confronting you in person, be it a colleague who has a bone to pick or a relative who's pissed because you didn't join his fantasy football team. But a Passive-Aggressive's self-confidence grows as he types his hate-filled, accusatory e-mail, hits "send," and then hides under his desk or in the bathroom. Respond with a message in which you put "Out of Office Reply" in the subject line. In the body of the message, simply note that you're not available for certain people right now and encourage them in your "absence" to visit the following web site before trying to reach you again: acgc.net/passive_aggressive_behaviors.htm

That's my list. Perhaps you have your own. If so, great. Just please don't e-mail it to me.

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When it comes to mounting shows, the Cincinnati Art Museum sticks close to home.

HOMETOWN PRIDE Odoardo Fontana's *Adoring Angel* (1849) and *Praying Angel* (1848) from the entrance to The Cincinnati Wing in this 2003 photograph. Robert Dunconson's portrait of Nicholas Longworth can be seen in the background.

First-time visitors to the Cincinnati Art Museum usually stop by the front desk and ask two questions: "Where are the Impressionist paintings?" and "Would you direct me to the Rookwood?" Both are constant reminders, says Anita Ellis, director of curatorial affairs and curator of decorative arts, that no matter what special exhibitions are showing, most people who visit the museum are drawn by its permanent collection. And that's as it should be. With more than 60,000 objects (and counting), CAM has the largest and most impressive collection of art in the state. "Our oldest piece is 6,000 years old, and our latest piece is probably still drying," a smiling Ellis says. Among the treasures: one of the finest collections of Islamic ceramics in the U.S.; significant paintings by most of Europe's premier 18th and 19th century artists; the earliest collection of African art in the U.S., put together by Carl Steckelmann of Indiana between 1885 and 1890; a Faberge box made for Czar Nicholas II to celebrate 300 years of Romanov rule in 1913; and as you might expect, the finest collection of

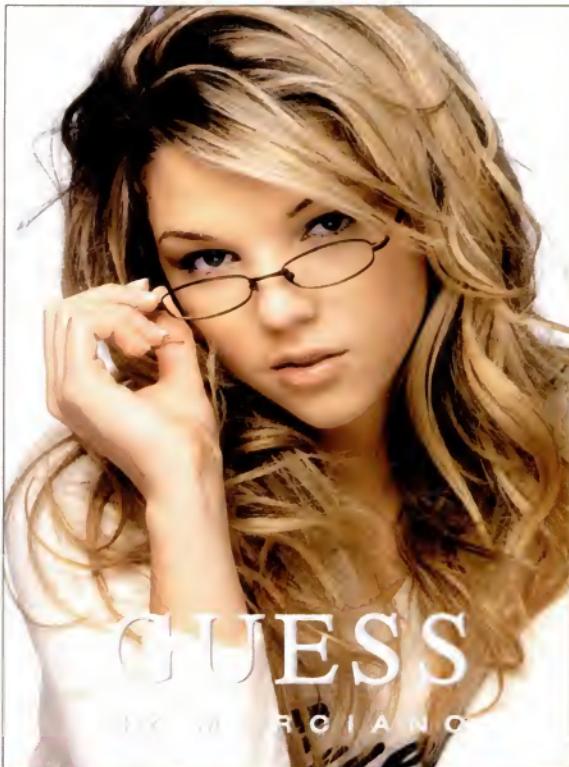
PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN AUBREY

Rookwood pottery in the world.

Still, it wasn't all that long ago that blockbuster exhibitions of works by artists that even a neophyte patron would recognize—Monet, Renoir, John Singer Sargent—were a surefire way to generate buzz and load the galleries, and a primary measure of any museum's success. The country's top museums, like the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Art Institute of Chicago, still reserve significant gallery space each year for such special exhibitions. To wit: Last year, the Met put on a major exhibition of paintings, drawings, and prints by Henri Matisse (*Matisse: The Fabric of Dreams, His Art and His Textiles*) while the Art Institute staged a show of more than 60 paintings by the French master Toulouse-Lautrec (*Toulouse-Lautrec and Montmartre*). And next month, a major retrospective of American master Andrew Wyeth (*Andrew Wyeth: Memory and Magic*) opens at the Philadelphia Museum of Art for a four-month run.

Mid-sized museum like CAM, however, are increasingly changing their strategy when it comes to exhibitions, by using their time and dollars to mine their own vast collections. "Blockbuster shows are a multi-million-dollar investment to mount and market," says former museum director Timothy Rub, who resigned in January to become director of the Cleveland Museum of Art. Even with major corporate subsidies, it's difficult for smaller markets like Cincinnati to attract the kind of attendance that it takes to meet such costs.

Of course, that only makes you wonder how The Dayton Art Institute, a mere 50 miles up I-75, manages to do it. In the past five years, they've hosted several popular road shows: *Scenes of American Life: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum*; *European Masterpieces From the Rau Collection*; *The Triumph of French Painting: Masterpieces from Ingres to Matisse*; and a major Rodin exhibition. Later this month, *Diana, A Celebration* opens, a collection of more than 150 objects that belonged to the late Princess Diana, including her 1981 wedding gown, 28 designer dresses, gowns, photos, and home movies



GUESS
BY MARC JACOBI

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2006 guide to charity events in
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from her childhood. Although the show has nothing to do with fine art, America's fascination with Di is sure to attract the masses.

The fact is, the Dayton Art Institute has a much smaller permanent collection than the Cincinnati Art Museum. At more than 20,000 objects, it is a third the size of CAM's, which creates a much greater need to bring in special exhibitions.

Deciding what the museum should present in its special exhibitions is also a matter of differing philosophies so that begs the question, what impact will the arrival of a new director sometime within the next year have on what we see. "We're committed to projects for the next four or five years," says Deputy Director Stephen Bonadies. "Of course a new director will have his own ideas, but the direction we're heading won't change in the foreseeable future."

After Rub arrived in 2000, the museum increasingly made reinterpreting and redisplaying its own collections its top priority. The changes that Rub, Ellis, and the curatorial staff have directed—like the opening of the \$10 million Cincinnati Wing in 2003—

have not only transformed the institution but ensured the future of some of its most precious objects. And they've broken new ground: With the Cincinnati Wing, CAM is the only art museum in America to permanently devote a large hunk of its acreage (18,000 square feet) to paintings, sculpture, furniture, and decorative arts created by homegrown artists and artisans. Innovation has driven decisions on all fronts—from expanded educational offerings to after-hours programming like One World Wednesdays, a party thrown once a month to attract young adults, a segment of the population often missing from museums.

Some of the most significant changes are ongoing, happening quietly as popular permanent galleries, such as those devoted to 19th century European painting, undergo facelifts (fresh paint, new lighting) or total makeovers. Why? Because the staff believes that it is no longer enough to display works by genre and artistic period. There are much bigger, and more interesting, stories to be told that allow visitors to step into the artist's world.

Gallery 225 on the second floor can be

found just to the left of the double staircase on the south side of the building. If you're used to seeing Impressionist paintings there, or haven't visited the museum in a while, you'll be surprised to see an ornate flintlock fowling rifle under glass in the center of the room. Another glass case holds a huge ceramic charger decorated with sea creatures. Framing the adjacent doorway are two large 19th-century covered vases manufactured by Minton that are decorated with pastoral scenes of grazing cows. The walls are filled with paintings by 19th-century French landscape masters like Courbet and Corot. The common thread? All the works were inspired by nature. Ellis believes that it not only flows better but is more logical in a narrative sense.

This does not mean that the museum has put a halt to acquiring new objects. On the contrary, caring for a large art collection requires filling in the blanks to make a particular subset complete. When Rub first arrived, he asked each of the museum's seven curators (there are now nine) to assess their collections and point out strengths and weaknesses. For Ellis, who was in the early



Future batterer?

Abuse doesn't discriminate – it can happen in the best of homes. Sons from very violent homes have intimate partner abuse rates 1000% greater than kids from non-violent homes. A child who witnesses abuse may become an abusing adult. But the cycle can be broken. This child doesn't have to become a batterer. For your family, for your community, visit embracehope.org or call United Way 211 (dial 2-1-1) to learn how we can all make it stop now.

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FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROJECT

Supported by the YWCA and United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

stages of putting together The Cincinnati Wing, this meant stepping back to take stock.

"One thing that was missing was Cincinnati silver," she says. "We had some, but we didn't have what we felt was enough to point to the importance of the story we wanted to tell." As a result, Ellis set about enriching the museum's holdings by trolling auction catalogs, eBay, and dealers. Eventually she initiated the purchase of eleven 19th-century pieces from a local dealer. Seeing those acquisitions convinced several museum patrons to take a look at their own collections.

After a conversation with Ellis, James and Betty Sutherland discovered that they had some early Cincinnati silver, the very thing Ellis was having a tough time finding. "Three weeks later," she says, "they arrived with four of the finest silver julep cups made here by Robert Best and Jacob Detterly around 1812-1813 and gave them to the museum." Several other donors were equally generous.

Between September 2004 and August 2005, the museum, through monetary gifts,

donations, and purchases, acquired 308 objects, including *The Bridge at Le Pecq*, an early masterpiece by French Fauvist painter André Derain, and a collection of 100 portrait miniatures by various artists. Two years ago it filled a hole in its Impressionist collection by purchasing *Fog at Guernsey*, its first painting by Auguste Renoir. It is the most expensive object the museum has ever purchased, but they will only say it cost multiple millions.

In nearly 125 years of existence, CAM has benefited from a legion of generous donors who have been willing to pass on their own private art collections or put up the money to buy something when the museum's coffers ran short. Two very timely examples: *Rembrandt, Master Printmaker*, a collection of more than 60 prints donated more than 70 years ago by local philanthropist and museum trustee Herbert Greer French, which opens later this month; and *Perfect Likeness: European and American Portrait Miniatures from the Cincinnati Art Museum*, which opens in March. The 179 miniature portraits that make up *Perfect Likeness*, which were created from the 16th

through the 20th centuries, came into the museum's possession in the form of two gifts from an anonymous donor. "Together they represent one of the top five collections of portrait miniatures in the country," Ellis says. Visitors will learn about the process of painting a tiny portrait and about the people who are depicted.

As to what kinds of traveling exhibitions may stop at CAM in the foreseeable future, Bonadies says, "if we don't have something and there's a good exhibition out there, we would consider it." Example: a collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings slated for the 2006-2007 season.

Ask Bonadies to dream out loud about what traveling shows he'd like to see originate at CAM and he mentions two of the museum's strengths. "We're always looking for opportunities to use our own collection as a nucleus for creating exhibitions, like a show out of The Cincinnati Wing or from our Asian collection," he says.

Sharing the wealth is also a way of boosting the museum's profile. As for the rest of us, bragging rights are always a good thing. ☐

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BY AMANDA BOYD, ALYSSA BRANDT, KATHLEEN DOANE, KATHERINE LOUISE, AND LINDA VACCARIELLO

Big Deal!

HOW TO FIND THE BEST BARGAINS
on everything

home base

page 80



serious fun

page 82



It's true! You **can** get great deals on great stuff all over town—you just have to know **where** to **look**. Searching for a set of golf clubs? A leather armchair? A wedding gown? A haircut? We know where you can **find them all**. And if you're thinking that *bargain* equals *low-quality*, **think** again: High-end purveyors have to move their inventory, too. Top-quality **labels**, for less? That truly is a big deal.

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GREAT LOOKS FOR \$122!

page 86

garment district

page 84



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page 88





HIGH-QUALITY COOKWARE,
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"OPEN-BOX" MARKDOWNS,
AND A SUPER COUPON

Home Base



BIG
WAREHOUSE
SALE
#1

Let the mod-squad rejoice: DESIGN WITHIN REACH will be having two (yes, two) warehouse sales this year! Unfortunately, they haven't announced dates, but don't worry. Get in the know by subscribing to their e-mail newsletter—the best way to find out when the sale will be, in addition to any special promotions. Who knows, maybe you'll end up with your very own Le Corbusier Cowhide Sling Chair (above). Visit the Web site to sign up for the newsletter. 2360 Progress Dr., Hebron, www.dwr.com.

Wouldn't it be great if someone would do the bargain hunting for you? At **MACY'S FURNITURE OUTLET** they will—it's just a part of their customer service. Talk to a salesperson mano-a-mano, and specify what you're interested in buying and your price range. If there's anything that fits the bill, they will notify you via phone. 5000 Mall Rd., Florence, (859) 525-5571

the best FURNITURE OUTLETS

Love Pottery Barn style but hate forking over \$1,459 for a Manhattan leather armchair? Make your furniture dreams come true at the **POTTERY BARN OUTLET**, up I-71 in Jeffersonville, where you can find the same chair for a mere \$899. The outlet also runs weekend (Fri-Sun) specials that further discount their prices. Call to get the deals before you head north. Ohio Factory Stores Prime Outlets, 8100 Factory Shops Blvd., Jeffersonville, (740) 948-2004

Dining room deals to drool over can be had at **BALLARD'S BACKROOM** outlet center, one of only two in the country. The Chianni Trestle Table, a medieval-style solid pine dining table with room for 10, is priced at \$899 in the catalog. At the outlet, however, you'll be sitting pretty at \$629.25. Furniture is an initial 20 percent off when it arrives and is discounted further if there are additional nicks or scratches. 8939 Union Centre Blvd., West Chester, (513) 605-1333



Bring the fine china to the table more often. The **NORITAKE WAREHOUSE** sale makes it easy when a service for eight that retails for more than \$700 is marked down to just \$150. That ought to tackle some of the mac-and-cheese monotony, right? This year the sale will take place Nov. 10-12 (Veteran's Day Weekend). 1031 Redna Terrace, Woodlawn, (513) 771-5655.

diy

February is a good time to think about woodworking, since it's when **WOODCRAFT** has their annual storewide 10 percent off sale. Call for the sale date, and while you're waiting, console yourself with savings on router bits and wood: The store's monthly deals can save you at least 15 percent on both. In January, a Whiteside round-over bit was \$18.74 (regularly \$24.99). 500 Koll, Fairfield, (513) 874-6181.

router bit-of-the-month

WORTH THE DRIVE / The **SEARS** appliance outlets in Columbus, Ohio, and Speedway, Indiana (both 105 miles from Cincinnati), sell name-brand kitchen, laundry, and electronics equipment at a fraction of retail cost. Markdowns start at 15 percent off and the outlet offers various weekly discounts. For example, a Kenmore Elite HE4T Washer, originally \$1,499.99, is \$1,274.99 (save \$225), and the matching dryer, originally \$929.99, is \$649.99 (save \$280). **Speedway Super Center**, 6022 Crawfordsville Rd., Speedway, Indiana, (317) 248-2445; 3467 Cleveland Ave., Columbus, (614) 447-9537





RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT OUTLET isn't just for the pros—it's open to the public and has great deals on professional cookware. So, maybe that stock pot doesn't have an All-Clad label (Williams-Sonoma price: \$200), but it's stainless steel and a *steal* at \$22.50. At \$53.95, the Back-to-Basics Smoothie Professional is more than a guilty pleasure—especially when Target sells the same machine for twice the price. 4112 Spring Grove Ave., Cumminsville, (513) 542-5900.



•••
HOMEGOODS promises you'll find name-brand items priced signifi-



cantly lower than department and specialty shops. And they're not kidding—we found a second-quality Le Creuset Oval French Oven for \$89.99 (first-quality round ones retail for \$175). See www.homegoods.com for multiple Greater Cincinnati locations.

25% OFF

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

CONTEMPORARY GALLERIES celebrates their anniversary in September with the people they love the most—their customers. In addition to the store's annual anniversary sale that month, customers on the mailing list nab **AN ADDITIONAL 25 PERCENT DISCOUNT CARD**. The card is good for the first day of the sale only, but how much time do you need to decide that the Design Express Sectional (list price \$3,854, sale price \$1,927, final discounted price \$1,445) is a great deal? We thought so. Call or visit the store to be added to the mailing list. 221 W. Fourth St., downtown, (513) 621-3113.

When they say *beyond*, they really mean it. Those huge bright-blue coupons **BED BATH AND BEYOND** mails out can be used well beyond their expiration date. And you can use up to five of them at one time. The 20 percent off coupon cards apply toward individual items, not the total, so any item beyond that is priced regularly. They even accept Linens 'n Things coupons. Sign up for the mailing list online.

www.bedbathandbeyond.com



CINCINNATI CLOSETS CAN HELP YOU UNLOCK YOUR CLOSET'S POTENTIAL, AND IT WON'T COST YOU THE SHIRT OFF YOUR BACK. FROM DECEMBER THROUGH EARLY MARCH, PAUL LINDEMANN OFFERS A **25 PERCENT DISCOUNT ON CLOSET SYSTEMS** AND FREE INSTALLATION. EVERY JOB IS CUSTOM, SO IT'S HARD TO PROVIDE A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE. BUT IF YOU'VE EVER CALLED CALIFORNIA CLOSETS (WHICH RARELY DISCOUNTS THEIR SYSTEMS) YOU KNOW IT'S A GREAT DEAL.

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www.cincinnaticlosets.com

OPEN-BOX POLICY

You've all seen them before—those open-box items at **CIRCUIT CITY**: iPod Shuffles, game systems, even a plasma HDTV advertised for much less than its unopened twin. What's the catch? Nothing, really. Store policy is that any product that is returned (for whatever acceptable reason) cannot be sold at regular price once the original vendor's packaging is removed. That's all. The product is in 100 percent original working condition (all returns

are shipped to a service center that tests and approves all of the products prior to issuing them as sellable) and come with the original manufacturer's warranty. Maybe you don't want to drop nearly \$2,000 on a 42" Panasonic plasma EDTV, but for \$1,419.99 (the price of an open-box version) you just may need to. Discounts vary from item to item, so you'll have to shop for yourself.



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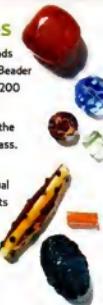
WORLD OF BEADS

YEAR-ROUND / Bead-heads score big with the Frequent Beader card—receive \$20 off each \$200 purchase within six months.

APRIL / Get 10 percent off the "Introduction to Beading" class.

JUNE / Glass beads are 15 percent off during their annual showcase of local glass artists (discount applies toward store inventory only).

2725 Erie Ave., Hyde Park, (513) 871-5600, 3765 Devitt Dr., Springdale, (513) 874-1883.



D&D OUTFITTERS

With prices already below manufacturer's list, we can't tell you the brands for sale. But we can tell you that you'll be able to take an additional 5 percent off canoes and kayaks during the D&D anniversary sale (end of January—early February), plus 10 percent off accessories.

536 W. Shoen Rd., Forest Park, (513) 674-7400, www.ddoutfitters.com



The classic combo becomes a cheap date once more: Every Wednesday evening **ESQUIRE** and **MARIEMONT** theatres ease the bite with \$6 movie tickets and a 20 percent discount at participating neighborhood restaurants (call or check online). Not hungry? Tuesday movies are \$5.50. **Esquire**, 320 Ludlow Ave., Clifton, (513) 281-8750, www.esquiretheatre.com; **Mariemont**, 6906 Wooster Pike, Mariemont, (513) 272-0222, www.mariemonttheatre.com.

\$18
CHEAP SEATS

Beginning two hours prior to any **PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK** performance, students and seniors (65 and over) can buy unsold tickets, normally \$32.50–\$55, for \$18, saving up to \$74 for you and a date. 962 Mt. Adams Circle, Eden Park, (513) 421-3888



The **MUSEUM SHOP** at the Taft holds winter and summer clearance sales with 40 percent off selected items. 316 Pike St., downtown, (513) 684-4521.

• • •

The **CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM**'s annual three-week sale in July knocks 30 to 40 percent off posters, books, jewelry, prints, and other items. 953 Eden Park Dr., Eden Park, (513) 721-2787.

• • •

The **CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER STORE** holds an inventory reduction sale during Fine Arts Fund Sampler Weekend, Feb. 11–12, and a summer sidewalk sale with markdowns of 40 percent. 44 E. Sixth St., downtown, (513) 345-8400.

museum gift shop sales

learn to...

draw Donate \$45 to the **ART**

ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI and receive a discount on community education courses, including watercolor, sculpture, drawing, painting, glassblowing, and ceramics. 1212 Jackson St., Over-the-Rhine, www.artacademy.edu/commned.htm, (513) 562-8748.

COOK Purchase an **EQ AT THE PARTY SOURCE** demonstration class for \$45 and bring a friend for free. 95 Riveria Dr., Bellvue, (859) 291-4007, www.thepartysource.com/eq.

Scrapbook **SCRAPS, ETC.**'s 10-class basic scrapbooking course costs \$100. That includes a free binder and one free class and crop, a savings of \$20. Four locations, including 1135 Cincinnati Mills Dr., Forest Park, (513) 671-6611, www.scrapsetc.com.

play tennis Put a better spin on your tennis game (or bring down your golf score) with the **CINCINNATI RECREATION COMMISSION**'s small group lessons. Tennis: six lessons with a pro, \$60. Golf: four lessons with a pro, \$80 (price varies with city course). Check www.cincinnati-oh.gov/crc for dates, times, and locations.

bagpipe

Ach! Fancy yerself the next Ashley MacIsaac, d'ya? The good folk of **CINCINNATI CALEDONIAN PIPES & DRUMS** offer free bagpipe instruction. www.CCPandD.org



SWING TIME

A GOOD WALK SPOILED BY PRICEY EQUIPMENT?



HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS

Some pro shops in the county park system have monthly sales in-season, great buys on rental equipment at end-of-season, and markdowns of up to 75 percent in the off-season. Look for a huge sale at Meadow Links in the spring. Not all pro shops are open year-round; call first. For a list of phone numbers, visit www.hamiltoncountyparks.org.

Save \$20-\$45 on sale. Look for deeper discounts on discontinued models in early spring and early fall, when new merchandise arrives. Plus, they'll hook you up with a company that will take your trade-in. Sign up online for info about specials. 9336 Colerain Ave., Colerain Twp., (513) 741-2066; 7790 Montgomery Rd., Kenwood, (513) 793-3673, www.specialite-golf.com

ALL GOLF AT LANDEN

The pro shop at this year-round range will match prices with the big box stores. Look for brisk markdowns on past-season and discontinued merchandise. They try to make golfing egalitarian here; at Christmas you can find thrifty starter sets for under \$100. Spend \$25 and you'll get a free bucket of balls. Sign up on-line for specials. 7630 Columbia Rd., Miamiville, (513) 459-4653, www.allgolf.com or www.allgolfanden.com

Carries new equipment, "pre-swing" clubs, and manufacturers' closeouts. The store also re-sells trade-ins: a set of current-model used irons will run \$100-\$200 under retail. Check out the markdown items (tip: they change every Thursday morning). Wholesale sales, held irregularly, are typically 20 percent off. Join the e-mail list and get coupons for additional off-season savings. 710 Kemper Commons Circle, Springdale, (513) 671-2861; 7729 Mall Rd., Florence, (859) 746-2832, www.2ndswing.com or www.zgolf.com

DEALS
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ENJOY THE ARTS

is your ultimate ticket to discounted prices for arts events of all kinds, including museums, concerts, theater, dance, movies, and social events. A yearly membership is \$25 for full-time students of any age; \$40 for non-students, (513) 621-4700.

WWW.ETASTART.COM

DAVIS ELECTRONICS in Milford is Grand Central Station for model railroad buffs. Davis boasts the largest stock of model trains in the country at discounted prices. Check the web site for featured specials, generally 25 to 30 percent below manufacturer's prices. 217 Main St., Milford, (513) 831-6425, www.davistrains.com.





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Garment District



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fetish



[three deals at **bridal and formal**] ★ Save 50 percent on red-tagged off-the-rack gowns from designers such as Vera Wang and Reem Acra. (Seeing pink tags? Those gowns are up to 80 percent off.) ★ During trunk sales, designers (or their reps) will often make gown changes—even switching bodices and skirts—for little to no cost. Henry Roth, Monique Lhuillier, and Lazarso trunk shows are in February. ★ Buy your gown at B&F and get up to 20 percent off everything else you buy there. *Bridal and Formal*, 300 W. Benson St., Reading, (513) 821-6622.

Both **NOBBY CUSTOM TAILORS** and **MIKE TROTTA CUSTOM TAILOR** offer custom shirt deals this month. Nobby offers six for the price of five, a savings of about 20 percent (fabric costs vary). Trotta also offers a six-for-five deal, and can cut you a deal on a pair of shirts—skip the service charge and get free monogramming, saving 15 percent on pinpoint oxfords. Need a whole suit? Trotta's got you covered. At the end of the season, some suiting manufacturers will offer reductions, resulting in a 10 to 20 percent savings. For more suiting sales, **ROMUALDO** in Madeira has a 15 percent discount on English fabrics this month.

Nobby Custom Tailors, 14 W. Seventh St., downtown, (513) 621-2613 • **Mike Trotta Custom Tailor**, 406 Walnut St., downtown, (513) 621-2930 • **Romualdo**, 7121 Miami Ave., Madeira, (513) 561-9010



Gap Clearance Center
Hebron,
(859) 586-3320
Find returned, damaged, and excess clearance merch from the Gap Inc. family of stores here. Set prices on most items (jeans, \$12.99); special prices on surplus items.

Off Fifth
Cincinnati Mills,
(513) 671-3143
This outlet carries past season, discontinued, and house brand items from Saks. We saw Paper, Denim & Cloth jeans for \$24 (from \$58); Kate Spade flats for \$50 (from \$240); and Calvin Klein suits for \$199 (from \$300).

Gabriel Brothers
Cherry Grove and
Sharonville
Dig through samples, damaged, discontinued, and overstock items to find treasures like Nicole Miller formal-wear, Timberland boots, and Hollister Co. hoodies.

Macy's
It's a good bet Macy's will be discounting any leftover winter items now. Watch for sales around holidays, when already marked-down clearance is discounted further. Slip the coupon from the paper and grab a reduction hat trick.

the must list

Last Call Sale
@ **Alyssa B.**
Symmes Twp.,
(513) 563-9512
Fetish, Soho, Alyssa B., and Denim join forces Feb. 2-4. Everything is priced between \$10 and \$100; save up to 80 percent on Elia Moss, Juicy Couture, James Perse, and Shoshanna.

BARGAINS DEFINED / So, what *is* the difference? **OUTLET SHOPS** carry brand-name goods at discounted prices, including overstock, discontinued, sample, damaged, and canceled special/custom order items. Most allow returns, but check to be sure. **CLEARANCE CENTERS** offload damaged and/or discontinued goods, and don't accept returns. **CONSIGNMENT SHOPS** deal in used goods and allow the original owners to retain a portion of revenue from the sale. The shop keeps a predetermined commission as well.



[kids' stuff]

BABY A

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What do you get when you go shopping with University of Cincinnati fashion design senior Jay Ott? Lots of style for very little money. How little? He put together the classic looks on these pages for \$122.30. His tricks? "Keep it simple, keep it clean," says Ott, 23, a Pittsburgh native who has co-oped in New York for Liz Claiborne, Coach, and Ralph Rucci. Last November, Ott (below left) debuted his own James Ott collection for Suki in Hyde Park, featuring dresses, skirts, and tops in jersey and fleece. Ott favors designs with play, and all of his pieces for Suki were versatile enough to be worn in more than one way. He must be on to something, because everything sold out in less than two weeks.



When searching for cool clothes on a tight budget, Ott casts a wide net. Our eight-hour spree started on Monmouth Street in Newport at the Village Discount Outlet thrift store, where we scored timeless staples like a khaki trench (with a zip-out lining), a drapey white Grecian-style dress, a navy cotton V-neck sweater, and a classic men's white button-down. Total price tag: \$14.50. At Hancock Fabrics a few doors down, Ott paid \$14 for three yards of olive fleece to employ as an elegant wrap. A quick stop at Suki in Hyde Park netted a fab fuchsia scarf by American Apparel for \$14.

Clothes that do double duty help stretch a tight budget. So at XXI Forever in the Kenwood Towne Center, Ott chose a mid-calf black jersey skirt that doubles as a sexy dress for

Fashion Cents

A STUDENT DESIGNER
CREATES HIGH FASHION
ON A LOW BUDGET

\$27.80. We ended the day at DSW in Rookwood Commons where we found a pair of go-with-everything black boots, on sale, for \$52. When shopping on a budget, "think outside the box," says Ott. Venture into stores where you don't normally shop and see what inspires you. Buy basics like jeans, T-shirts, and dress shirts at your favorite thrift store and put the money you save toward a killer pair of shoes. "A great shoe makes everything else you're wearing look expensive," he says. But Ott's most salient piece of advice applies to fashionistas of any means: "Pay less attention to labels and more attention to what looks flattering." —Alyssa Brandt

UC STUDENT AND MODEL KIM BURGESS SHOWS OFF FOUR LOOKS WITH EIGHT EASY PIECES



Worn as a dress, this black jersey skirt is sexy enough for an evening out. From XXI Forever at Kenwood Towne Centre: \$27.80. Vanelli stretch boots from DSW: \$52.



As a skirt, it pairs with a men's button-down shirt for a traditional tailored look. Geoffrey Beene shirt from Village Discount Outlet in Newport: \$5.



Fleece won't unravel when cut, so this cozy wrap is a cinch to make: Just cut and drape. It gives a classic silhouette a bohemian twist. Three yards of olive fleece from Hancock Fabrics, Newport: \$14.

shop smart

JAY OTTIS TIPS FOR STRETCHING YOUR STYLE DOLLARS

Don't let price be your only guide. A bargain isn't a bargain if you never wear it.

• • •

Don't write off more exclusive boutiques—check for sales or less expensive pieces that set your outfit apart (like the scarf we found at Suki).

• • •

Before you buy, ask yourself: Is this a fad or something lasting?

Invest in classic, straight lines and put your whim purchases into smaller pieces like a tank top or an accessory.

• • •

Keep it solid and focus on texture. Too much embellishment can cheapen the look of a garment.

• • •

Don't go to a thrift store looking for something specific. Shop with an open mind.

• • •

Don't be afraid of wrinkles; they're easily pressed or steamed out. Some details, like buttons, are easily changed.

• • •

Thrift store clothes are inexpensive, so don't be afraid to experiment.

• • •

Shop outside your "department." Comb the men and boys section for classic button-downs and trench coats.



Cotton jersey scarf by American Apparel from Suki in Hyde Park

\$14.00

Misty Harbor khaki trench coat with removable lining from Village Discount Outlet in Newport

\$6.00

Paul et Duffier navy cation sweater from Village Discount Outlet

\$2.00

White Grecian-style dress by R & K Originals from Village Discount Outlet

\$1.50

grand total
\$122.30



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MASSAGES, EXPERT ADVICE,
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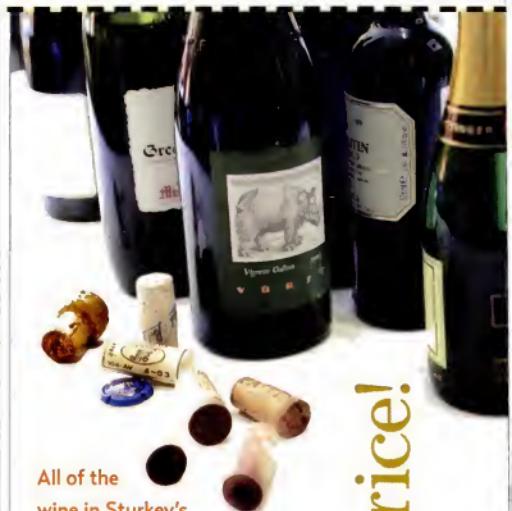
MICHAEL'S COLLEGE OF HAIR DESIGN. Lots of Redken products and careful attention here. Prices range from \$8 cuts to \$25 for hair color. Walk-ins and appointments welcome. 7535 Burlington Pike, Florence, (859) 282-7333.



BEAUTY
ON A
BUDGET

The sales associates at **SEPHORA** pass out free samples of makeup, fragrance, and skin care serums like they're being paid to get rid of 'em. Just pick your potion, and you'll nab a sweet little pot of product to take home. And the freebie makeovers (i.e. "consultations") are divine. Kenwood Towne Centre, 7875 Montgomery Rd., (513) 794-0250.

SAMPLE HEAVEN



All of the
wine in Sturkey's
well-stocked cellar is half price
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a bottle of Silver Oak Napa Valley
Cabernet, normally \$145, is all
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half price!

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WORTH THE DRIVE / Feeling blue? If chocolate is an antidepressant, then a free tour of the **RUTH HUNT CANDY FACTORY** is the Poor Man's psychotherapy. The friendly Ruth Hunt staff will ply you with **free samples** of the sumptuous chocolates beloved by Kentucky Derby fans. Tours run January through May; call for times. 550 N. Maysville Rd., Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, (800) 927-0302.



free REALLY!

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• **CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM.** This grande dame of museums is **FREE DAILY**; charge for special exhibits may apply. Tues., Thurs.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wed. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. 953 Eden Park Dr., Mt. Adams, (513) 721-2787.

• **CINCINNATI RAILROAD CLUB.** Learn about Union Terminal in the days of the Iron Horse. **FREE.** Thurs. & Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; first and third Sun noon-5 p.m. Historic Tower A, Fifth Floor, Cincinnati Museum Center, 1301 Western Ave., West End, (513) 651-7245

• **CINCINNATI OBSERVATORY CENTER.** Thursday night programs and Sunday afternoon tours are **FREE** (donations suggested). Call for reservations and times. 3489 Observatory Place, Hyde Park, (513) 321-5186.

• **KROHN CONSERVATORY.** Indoor rain forest and other botanical exhibits. Admission may apply for special events; other times, donations are encouraged. Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 1501 Eden Park Dr., Mt. Adams, (513) 421-5707.

• **KIRBALL MUSEUM** at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. An array of exhibits focusing on Jewish cultural heritage. **FREE DAILY.** Open Mon.-Thurs 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun 2-5 p.m. 3101 Clifton Ave., Clifton, (513) 221-1875.

• **TAFT MUSEUM.** Art, ceramics, and jewelry, plus special exhibits. **FREE WEDNESDAYS,** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 316 Pike St., downtown, (513) 241-0343.

• **WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.** The presidential birthplace is **FREE DAILY.** Open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily; closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. 2038 Auburn Ave., Mt. Auburn, (513) 684-3262. ☺

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Everything you ever wanted to know about growing things in the Ohio Valley.

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free lunch!



Photographs by Ryan Kurtz



The Things She Left Behind

St. Bernards. Madonnas. Player piano rolls.
More St. Bernards. Honey, at **Marge Schott's** estate auction,
there was something for everyone.

By Linda Vaccariello



“I’m not big on glassware, and I can’t see her with it,”

says Pam Anter, pausing briefly at a display of crystal on one of the white-cloth-covered tables in the cavernous Starlite Ballroom.

The “her” is the late Marge Schott—former Cincinnati Reds owner, businesswoman, philanthropist, and infamous cheapskate—whose household effects will be auctioned off in a few hours. The glasses look lovely to me, but since there’s no catalog for the December auction, and since I don’t know the difference between Waterford and water-spotted, I have no idea if these are family treasures or factory rejects. It doesn’t seem to matter to Anter, an antiques dealer. She’s not interested.

“Seriously,” she says, “I can’t picture her being into the glassware. She was more of a basic person. She did all this”—Anter gestures at end-to-end tables filled with china and sterling—“because she was entertaining.” What has caught Anter’s eye is a large painting of a little girl with a St. Bernard—very Victorian, very romanticized. “I like that,” she says. “I can imagine her owning that.”

Anter and her husband are here to buy items for

Anter’s shop in Bethel, Asat Antiques and Collectibles. But she’s also here to buy something for herself—a memento of Marge. “She was a great lady,” she says. Anter, who is 47, used to play women’s softball. Recently, she lost both her parents, and now thoughts of Marge are tumbled together with memories of family trips to the ballpark. This is probably not the most practical mindset for an antiques dealer hoping to make a killing at a cut-throat estate sale, but a celebrity auction is different.

Earlier in the morning I had asked auctioneer Wes Cowan about how the celebrity factor might influence things today. Certainly the event had gotten a lot of attention. Cowan had been trotting around to local talk shows, talking up the sale and emphasizing that everything would be sold to benefit the Schott Foundation. But there was a snowstorm last night, and I was wondering if that would keep people from venturing to the Starlite Ballroom, the rented hall near Coney Island where Cowan and his minions from Cowan’s Auctions, Inc., have set up what remains of the outspoken, unapologetic, cigarette-friendly former Reds owner. It’s mid-morning, and only a handful have come to preview the household goods. “The unknown factor is, what *is* Marge’s celebrity?” Cowan said. “She was a huge celebrity here, but it’s not going to be like the Jackie Kennedy auction.”

Indeed, Marge Schott was no Jackie Kennedy. Just take a look at the things she left behind. No elegant ear-



rings, no pearls, none of the sort of personal items that, if you were a Jackie-o-ophile, you'd just go nuts over. Marge's things have been divided according to genre: sports memorabilia will go on the block at a separate sale in the spring; the estate's best pieces of art will be sold in the summer; and her personal effects have already been removed by her family. So there's not a wardrobe filled with red sweaters and ball caps for the public to paw over, or for that matter, cartons of Cartltons.

In fact, unless you knew Marge, there's no way of knowing for sure which of the hundreds of items here meant the most to her. Buyers who want to feel as though they have something personal, something that really says *Marge*, have to project their own idea of Marge-ness onto figurines, lawn furniture, and ashtrays. Which seems to be what Anter is doing. She pauses to examine a Limoges punch bowl and eight cups extravagantly painted with clusters of plump grapes. Anter likes the punch bowl. And even more important, she says, "I can see *her* liking this." And really, that's what counts.

Shakespeare said that we are such stuff as dreams are made of. But in Shakespeare's day, the average man barely owned enough to fill a rucksack. Today, when our little lives are rounded with a sleep, we leave behind mountains of evidence. At one table, a man in a denim jacket and a blaze orange hunting cap sifts through framed photographs. There's Marge with Governor Jim Rhodes in the 1970s; Marge with Ronald Reagan in the 1980s; Marge with Muhammad Ali; with Jack Gilligan; with Santa. There is, inexplicably, a framed snapshot of Senator Jim Bunning meeting Pope John Paul II. And there are two pictures of Marge with George W. Bush. In one they're standing together; in the next, the president is kissing her.

The two pictures are relatively recent, probably taken not long before she died in 2004 at the age of 75. They're not pictures of the ebullient, larger-than-life 1984 Marge, the first woman to own a Major League team; not the 1992 Marge, whose insensitive talk and racial remarks got her into trouble; not the scowling, smoking, hatchet-faced woman cruelly immortalized on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* in 1996. In these pictures with the president, she wears thick eyeglasses, and looks like she could be someone's grandmother—pleased, surprised, and a bit frail. These pictures don't hold the attention of the man in the hunting cap. "I just heard Jim Scott talk about this auction on the radio this morning and I came over," he says, before moving on.

More people are arriving now, making their way around the hall, studying the heavy 17th-century table from the high-ceilinged front room of the Schott estate, glancing at the ersatz French provincial pieces, hovering over the tables that hold smaller, more delicate items and the odd lots of things that are, well, odd. There are dozens of elephant- and St. Bernard-themed knickknacks and scores of Madonna-and-Child figurines. Peo-

ple see these things, and they stop to nod or chuckle. This is the Marge they knew, or think they knew: devoted to her faith, to the zoo, to children, to baseball, and to the generations of dogs named Schottzie. There are items that might draw a cynical wisecrack, too—things like the commemorative plates from the Ohio Tobacco Festival. But if anyone makes a snide remark, I don't hear it.

And there are things that I'm at a loss to explain. Two beautiful kimonos. A suite of toddler-sized wicker porch furniture. Carton after carton of player piano rolls with quaint song titles like "Apple Blossoms" and "At Peace with the World." And lots of Royal Doulton figurines—delicate china ladies with rosebud lips and tiny hands as graceful as doves. I have a hard time incorporating these into my image of Marge, but I never met the woman, so what do I know?

On my way to examine five battered 1-cent gumball dispensers, I meet Alfred Nippert, a Glendale estate attorney. Nippert, who will only say that he's in his 50s, grew up on the Nippert family estate in Indian Hill and was one of Marge's neighbors. He even rented a house from her when he was a newlywed. "What amazes most people is the wide breadth of her knowledge and her interests," he says. He has just finished studying a set of white china decorated with pale blue ships. He knew the blue ship china would be in the sale and was eager to see it. "It's damaged," he says with disappointment. "It's Rookwood and it's geometric, so if it's used and enjoyed, it suffers."

Nippert is an auctioneer himself, and he points out that a huge estate sale like this one—the household of a wealthy person who never downsized, never moved to a condo or retirement village or nursing home—is becoming a thing of the past. "The maiden aunt who lived in the family home in Mt. Auburn forever is gone," he says.

Of course, Marge had • *CONTINUED ON PAGE 156*



MARGENALIA In the vastness of the Starlite Ballroom (opposite page), Marge Schott's worldly possessions await the future. On the auction block: a wealth of religious items (this page, top), valuable silver (bottom), and curiosities such as the carved-bear chair, the object of a lively bidding war.





Survival of the Warmest

Giving the weather the cold shoulder,
one man set out to live a typical busy
winter day . . . inside his car.

Fifteen errands, 275 miles, and 14 hours later,
he discovered there's a fine line
between staying warm and staying sane.

By Ian Aldrich

Illustration by Eben Sorkin



February is a killer. Short on days, but long on cruelty. For me, its arrival

marks the official end of winter's snowy charm, replaced instead by a hatred of all things cold: cold cars, cold houses, and fending off the cold with "layers." It's enough to make me want to burn Styrofoam and go on an aerosol spraying spree — anything to erode the ozone and introduce 80-degree weather and palm trees to Cincinnati. But until that happens, I have a life to live. Work, errands, taking my wife out, these things are impossible to do in winter without struggling against the weather, right?

I wanted to find out for sure. My mission: Run through the course of a typical 14-hour day and spend as little time as possible outdoors. Banking, dropping clothes off at the dry cleaner, grocery shopping, going to a movie — whatever it took, I was going to live my life from the cozy confines of my warm car. Venturing outside, if even for just a few seconds, would be kept to a minimum. You gotta have a goal, and mine was to keep total cold air exposure to under 10 minutes. Anytime I stepped outside — to run into a store or find a bathroom — the clock would run. Drive-throughs would be my best friends; personal shoppers, a welcome helping hand; and a prime parking space, a gift from the gods. My tools: detailed itinerary, stopwatch, MapQuest printouts, cell phone, satellite radio, magazines, books, megaphone, and a small garbage bag, which I would have every intention of using, but inevitably wouldn't.

I had a few rules. Hitting golf balls from a heated bay at Meadow Links & Golf Academy in Winton Woods was not technically "outside" because there would be a roof overhead and no need to wear a jacket. Second, I could employ help, be it begging my wife to fill the gas tank or asking a stranger to get me a quart of milk at the grocery store. Let me repeat: The goal was to stay warm. Period. Pride, and a sense of gentlemen's duty, were to be sacrificed. At any cost.

And so, one frigid Friday morning, I set out. . . .

8:52 A.M. ☀:46 OUTSIDE THE CAR

Nineteen degrees, with the promise that it will "heat up" to the high 20s. A perfect day to hate the outdoors. Organization is going to be key to this project, and I've gone to great lengths to be prepared. The front passenger seat is my desk and it's meticulously laid out. Map printouts easily accessible; music and itinerary within reach; phone numbers and cell at the ready. I haven't forgotten a thing.

8:53 A.M. ☀:56 OUTSIDE THE CAR

Great. I forgot my shirts for the dry cleaner.

9:36 A.M.

First stop of the day: The Starbucks drive-through across from Kenwood Towne Centre. My mission: A chai latte. I lost some valuable time trying to leave the house this morning — 102 seconds to be exact. Then I was forced to sit in my car for 15 minutes as seven different drivers

placed their orders in front of me. *Don't these people have jobs?* But the wait, the earlier goof-up with the shirts, all of it's forgotten when barista Eric Horan hands me my morning hot beverage.

9:45 A.M. ☀:15 OUTSIDE THE CAR

The first rule of spending your day in the car is keeping your bathroom breaks to a



minimum. I knew this heading in. So it made no sense for me to bring along a large Gatorade, let alone proceed to gulp it down before I even reached Starbucks. I'm barely on I-71, heading north for the Fields Ertel exit to Mike's Express Carwash in Mason, when it hits me: I gotta go. The exits pass by slowly, the miles barely ticking off, before I see my beacon, a towering McDonald's sign poking through the clouds at the base of the Fields Ertel off-ramp. Now I know how distraught sailors must have felt at finally sighting a distant lighthouse. Hope. The promise of a good urinal. Pending relief.

10:45 A.M.

I have to go the bathroom. Again. Damn you, chai latte!

11:20 A.M.

I've just seen the man I could never hope to be. After making a bank deposit (drive-through), dropping my stuff off at Spring-



dale Cleaners (again, drivethrough), and getting some caffeine at Kidd Coffee (another drive-through, thank you very much)—all in Mason, a Shangri-La for cold weather-haters—I'm headed south on I-75 when I spot a man cruising beside me in a minivan without a jacket, and more important, with the back window wide open. A long roll of carpet extends from the dashboard through the back



window a good couple of feet, and a flimsy piece of plastic—which I suppose is there to block the chill—flaps in the wind. The cold air is rushing into his car, but he looks fine. He's either insane or his brain is frostbitten. He sees me and smiles. I hate him.

12:18 P.M.

MapQuest is not my friend. Here's what you don't want from the other end of the line when you're lost and calling for directions: Silence. Dead, dumbfounded silence. But that's what I get when I reach Matt at Meadow Links & Golf Academy in Winton Woods. I'm supposed to be where Matt is, but instead I'm at the end of a dead-end lane off of West Sharon Road, staring at a run-down baseball field and a couple of old trucks. Where is

that barking coming from? Nope, no golf here. I rattle off a few recent landmarks, but Matt sounds as lost as I do. "I think you're close," he says, tentatively. "Turn left on Sharon Road, we should be a mile or so away."

12:22 P.M.

He's not. Gas stations, a McDonald's, housing developments—yes. But not a golf course. I'm in a real bind here. Do I get out and find someone to ask for directions? Or do I make the dreaded second call to Matt, demonstrate I have an IQ of about seven, and ask for directions—again? Pride gets shown the door and I reach for the phone.

12:35 P.M.

I finally find Meadow Links and dash into the pro shop to reserve my spot. Dan, the manager, slides an empty basket and two tokens across the counter. I look



down at his offering and then back up at him. "You fill up outside, at the machine just around the corner," he says, pointing across the room to a set of doors. The machine? Outside? I don't get it, I want to say to him. *If you went to the trouble of building heated bays for the driving*

range, why not go the extra step and put the ball machine inside? That just seems like a no-brainer. But I smile, pick up my basket and demo club, and make my way to the machine. Outside. Thanks, Dan.

12:40 P.M. • 1:12 OUTSIDE THE CAR

My frustration was warranted. I pursued 80 balls and sure enough, the machine took its sweet time spitting them out in sets of 10. Then I had to expend a few seconds digging around my pockets for that second token. That took 1 minute, 12 seconds of outside time. But I got through it, and now I'm calm, relaxed, and surprisingly warm standing near the heater as I prepare to swing away.

12:45 P.M.

I suck at this game.

1:45 P.M.

Lunchtime means a chicken wrap from Skyline (Hey, I'm trying to stay healthy—and when's the last time you tried to eat a four-way in your car?) and high art, courtesy of a drive through the Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park in Hamilton. Pyramid Hill is a cold-hater's paradise, a 265-acre park laced with narrow paved roads that allow you to enjoy the local flora and 50 large, mainly metal, sculptures without ever having to leave your car. There are even spots to park. Call me a philistine, but who needs to waste precious minutes getting in and out of cars at the art museum when this place exists?

2:15 P.M.

Driving around in your car all day without ever venturing beyond a 30-mile radius changes a man. Makes him look at life in a whole new light. Take billboards. At this moment it's a toss-up as to whose face annoys me more: Chevrolet dealer Terry Lee (three sightings) or the smug mug of actor Jeremy Piven splashed across Cincinnati Bell ads (five sightings). Let's call it a tie. • *CONTINUED ON PAGE 177*



Drive-Time: By the Numbers • TOTAL MILES DRIVEN: 275 • HOURS OF CONSECUTIVE NPR LISTENING: 6.5 (NOT RECOMMENDED) • TOTAL OPEN-AIR EXPOSURE TIME: 7 MINUTES, 25 SECONDS • MAXIMUM CONSECUTIVE HOURS IN CAR: 7 • NUMBER OF BATHROOM STOPS: 3 • APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF CALORIES CONSUMED: 2,356 • APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF CALORIES EXPENDED: 12

© Gordon Baer

GORDON BAER OPERATES UNDER ONE GUIDING PRINCIPLE: "WHEN ONLY THE MUNDANE SEEMS POSSIBLE, GO FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY." HE'S 65 NOW, BUT as that maxim indicates, age hasn't slowed him or curbed his curiosity. During his 47 years as a photojournalist and freelance photographer, Baer has produced a marvelous body of work that has appeared in newspapers, magazines, and books around the world—from *The Cincinnati Post*, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, and *The Louisville Courier-Journal* to *Life*, *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, the *London Daily Mail*, *Time*, and *People*. Which is to say, Baer's got good eyes, and those eyes know when they see a story.

Take his 1966 photograph of the Beatles' concert at Crosley Field (page 100). Baer captured the frenzy of the Fab Four's entrance as they ran a gauntlet of adoring fans—the jungle of outstretched arms, the band hunched over to squeeze through, the police officer wondering what happened to his hat. Or when he was working for the *Post* in the 1960s and was sent out to get the obligatory winter shot (page 102). Waiting patiently at the bottom of Mt. Hope Avenue in Price Hill for a salt truck to make its assault, he saw a car zoom up the hill and—click!—captured the smug reaction of the salt truck driver. "He made it about two-thirds of the way up the hill before he slid down backwards," Baer reports.

Of course, his do-whatever-it-takes attitude also has put the photographer in some dicey situations. While serving in the U.S. Air Force in Japan in 1969, he ran alongside a burning plane, snapping photos as it skidded down a runway. At times, he's used that unflinching moxie to persuade uncooperative subjects as well. He spent a year and a half working on his landmark photo book *Vietnam: The Battle Comes Home*, published by Morgan & Morgan Publishing Co. in 1984, which tracked the tribulations of Vietnam vets suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. The photographs earned Baer the World Understanding Award, presented jointly by the University of Missouri, the National Press Photographers Association, and Nikon.

Baer readily admits that having control of his subjects is what has appealed to him since he first picked up a camera at age 8 and began to shoot photos for an after-school program at a YMCA in Louisville. His

first camera was a Shur-Shot Junior with a reflex lens. There have been dozens of cameras since. Today, Baer shoots the majority of his photographs with two early "state-of-the-art" Nikons. "They've long been considered dinosaurs," he says. Baer's mother gave him a digital camera for his 60th birthday, but it rarely comes out of its case. "There is something magical about not knowing what you've gotten until you develop the film."

Last year a rumor made the rounds that Baer, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease three years ago, was hanging up his cameras. "Not so," he says. In fact, he's turned his affliction into an assignment and is working on a photo essay about the disease. His one-man retrospective on the following pages provides a glimpse of his unique perspective on the extraordinary things he's witnessed, and some of the extraordinary people who have passed through Cincinnati. Does he ever feel like retiring? "Every day the adventure continues," he says, "and I feel like I've just done it for the first time." • KATHLEEN DOANE





Covering Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963, for the Louisville Times, Baer found this exhausted Civil Rights marcher grabbing a nap on the mall.





THIS PAGE / John Lennon (top). Baer briefly climbed inside the limousine to snap this shot of Paul, Ringo, John, and George shortly after their arrival at Lunken Airport the night before the show.

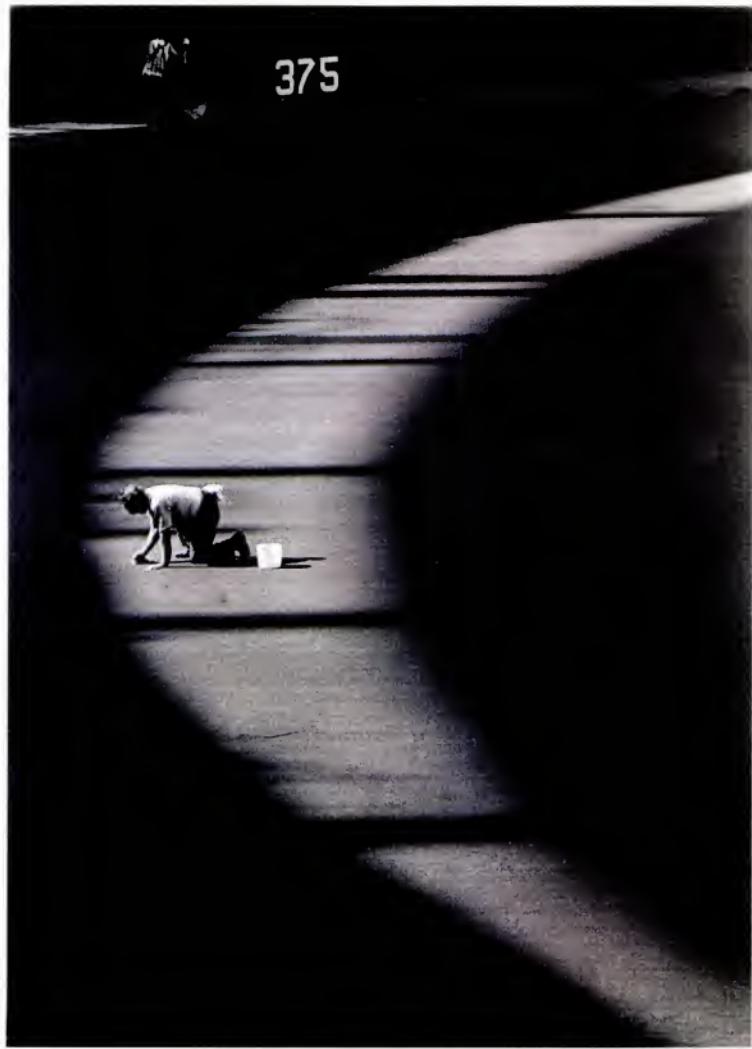
OPPOSITE / The Beatles, assisted by a police escort, scramble out onto Crosley Field for their second concert in Cincinnati in 1966.



A fire department demonstration takes a romantic turn when a firefighter leans in to kiss the hand of the Genius of Water (a.k.a. "the lady") on Fountain Square, 1969.

That same year, Baer captured a city worker waiting to salt icy Mt. Hope Avenue in Price Hill as he watched a gutsy driver zoom for the summit. He didn't make it.

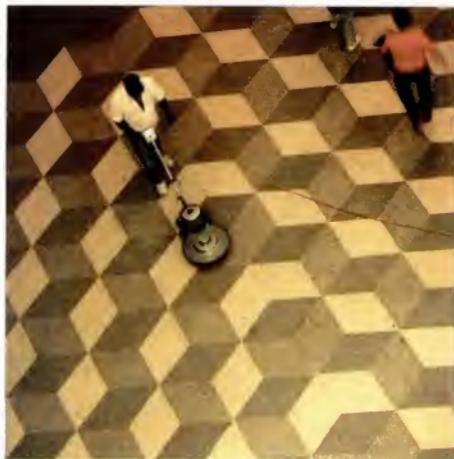




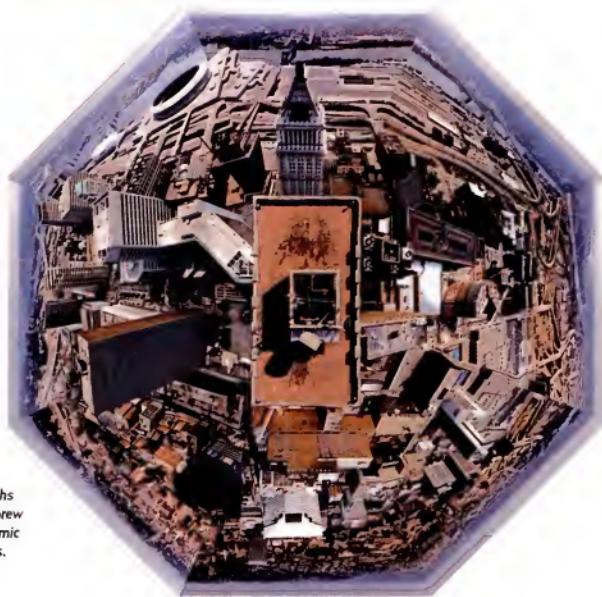
A member of the grounds crew gives the artificial turf a last-minute cleanup before the first game at Riverfront Stadium on June 30, 1970.



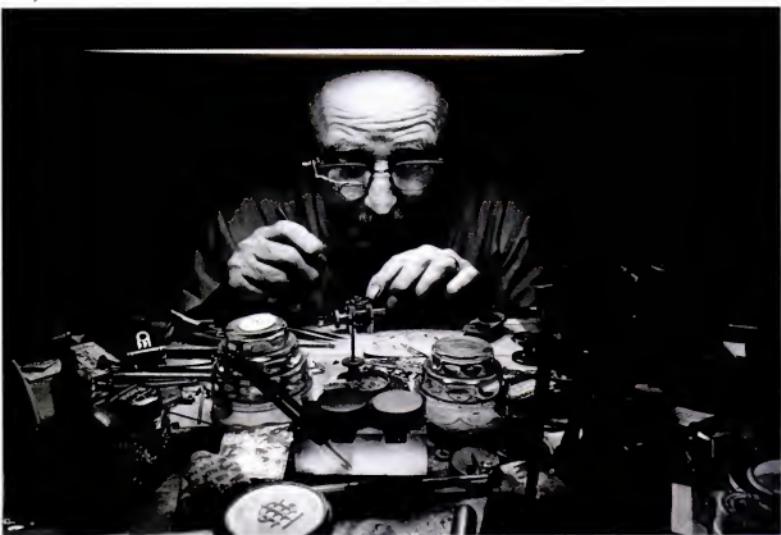
Taft Broadcasting Co. chairman Charles Mechem (front left) and president Dudley Taft (front right) host a businessman's special aboard Kings Island's Red Racer roller coaster in 1977.

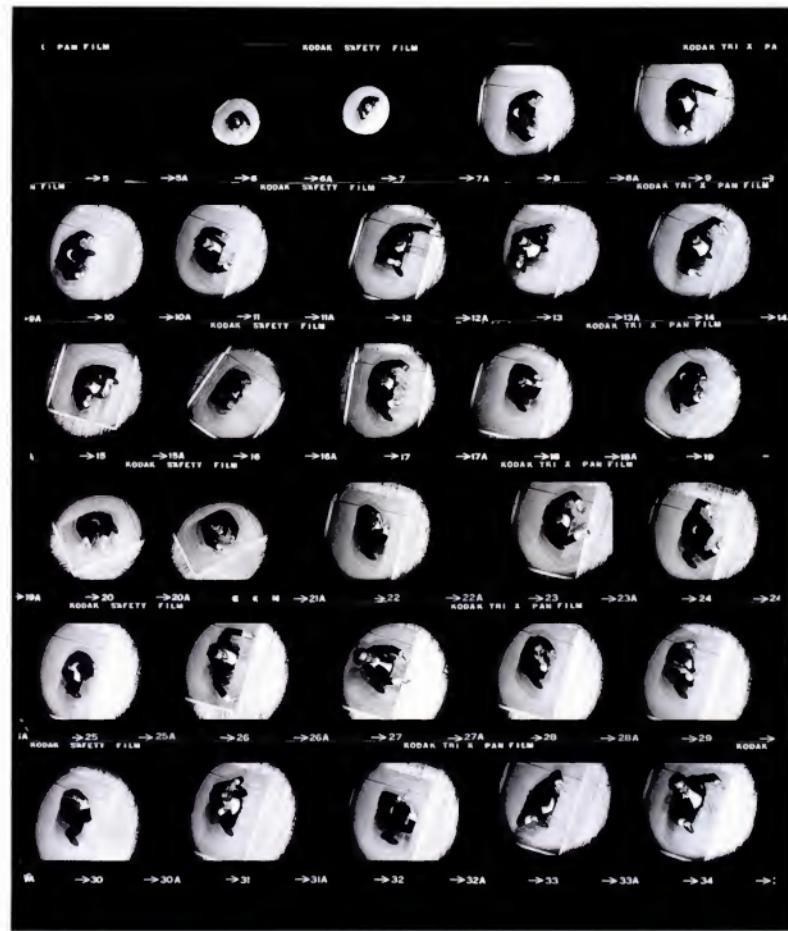


This 1977 photo of the lobby floor of the 525 Vine building calls to mind the optical illusions of artist M.C. Escher.



Boer used portions of 25 photographs taken from a helicopter and atop Corew Tower in 1984 to create this panoramic view of the building and its environs.





THIS PAGE / Perched on a catwalk above the stage of Severance Hall in Cleveland during a 1979 performance, Baer snapped this series of Cleveland Orchestra music director Lorin Maazel conducting Stravinsky's *Firebird* Suite.

OPPOSITE / Watchmaker F. W. Hunziker at work (top), photographed in 1963 for a class assignment during Baer's student days at the University of Louisville. Acclaimed novelist James Baldwin (bottom), looking a little exasperated during a classroom lecture at Bowling Green State University in 1979.

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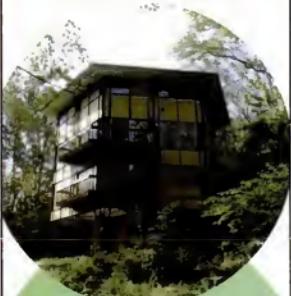
MOD SQUAD

YOUR GUIDE TO MID-CENTURY MODERN

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Welcome to the February

I bought it as a birthday present for my design-smart husband, wondering all the time why anyone would ever pay that much for a clock. Then Jim hung the George Nelson Sunburst Clock (the one pictured on our section's cover) on our living room wall, and the room was transformed. It's hard to describe mid-century Modern without describing moments like those—moments in which one simple piece of sculpture, functional sculpture at that, adds depth, color and life to a space.

In the pages that follow, you'll find a unique sampling of that mid-century aesthetic. The clean lines that prove that form really can follow function, and do it with style. You'll see pieces that are often beautiful, sometimes strange, but always interesting—as are the stories that go along with them.

We'll take you inside the challenges of living in a Frank Lloyd Wright home in Clifton and tour a Modern home restored with love, care and conviction in Amberley. You'll also find great advice for collecting in our Cool Looks story—two of my favorites come as good news for collectors and wannabes alike. Number one: Less is more, seriously. You don't need to overfill your home with every Modern piece available, not to mention break your budget, to create a truly Mod dwelling, says David G. Smith of *designsmithgaller*y. Number two: Buy local. Thanks to area dealers who scour the country looking for Modern, you can find them here, says Alex Chronis, who owns Cincinnati Modern Gallery. Like other local dealers, many of his customers are coastal residents who snap up his "bargain" Modern finds.

Except for the Nelson clock, we owe much of our Modern slant this month to Marnie Hayutin, who brought the idea and a good deal of passion about it to Home & Garden meetings more than a year ago. Like all good things, this section took a lot of loving hands and many hours of work. I hope you take the time to enjoy it and all that the local Modern community has to offer!

PS.—Don't miss the 20th Century Cincinnati Show on February 25-26.

Elissa Sonnenberg

Elissa Sonnenberg, Custom Publishing Editor

COMING NEXT MONTH:

FIFTH THIRD BANK GREATER CINCINNATI HOME & GARDEN SHOW:

Make a break for the first day of Spring at this year's Show, where vendors can help you reshape any room of your house and enliven your garden, too!

Page 109: Photograph by James Sonnenberg. This page: (left) photograph by Ryan Kurtz; (middle) photograph courtesy of Charley Harper; (right) photograph by J. Miles Wolf/www.jmileswolf.com.

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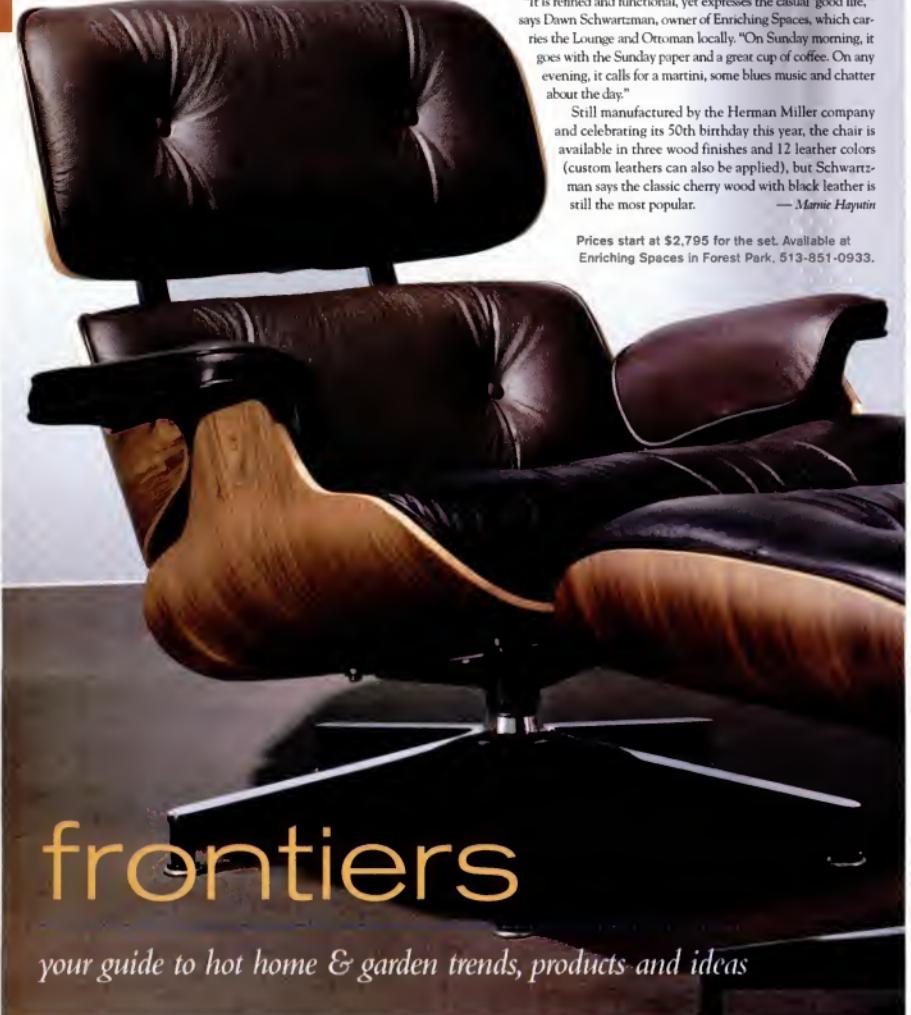
With the goal of designing seating with the "warm, receptive look of a well-used first baseman's mitt," Charles and Ray Eames introduced the Eames Lounge Chair and Ottoman in 1956. Since then, the chair has become an icon of modern design, earning a place on countless TV and movie sets and in the permanent collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art.

"It's refined and functional, yet expresses the casual 'good life,'" says Dawn Schwartzman, owner of Enriching Spaces, which carries the Lounge and Ottoman locally. "On Sunday morning, it goes with the Sunday paper and a great cup of coffee. On any evening, it calls for a martini, some blues music and chatter about the day."

Still manufactured by the Herman Miller company and celebrating its 50th birthday this year, the chair is available in three wood finishes and 12 leather colors (custom leathers can also be applied), but Schwartzman says the classic cherry wood with black leather is still the most popular.

— *Mariie Hayutin*

Prices start at \$2,795 for the set. Available at Enriching Spaces in Forest Park, 513-851-0933.



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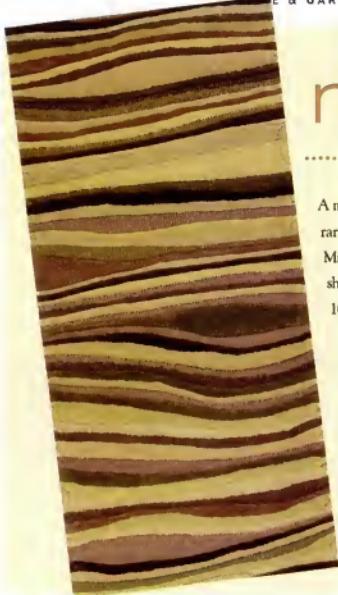
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retro rug

A mid-century Modern motif starts with the floor, in this case with a contemporary twist. "Angela Adams is heavily influenced by mid-century designers," says Michael Deininger, co-owner of MiCa Contemporary Craft. Her wool Spike rug, shown here, pops with color and style. Shapes range from round to an 8-foot by 10-foot square; colors include Citron and Rust.

—Jessica Delsing

Prices range from \$494 for the 5-foot diameter rug to \$1,498 for the 8-foot by 10-foot rug. Available at MiCa Contemporary Craft in O'Bryanville, 513-533-1974, or visit www.shopmica.com.

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The Ballet Table and New York Chairs by Calligaris add a mid-century feel to any dining experience. The Italian manufacturer melds the sleek look of metal and glass with the deep tones of wood, plus plenty of flexibility, depending on glass size. Pick a smaller piece to fit four; a larger size accommodates six at the table.

—jessica Dalsing

Prices range from \$273 per chair to \$608 for the table. Available at Contemporary Galleries downtown, 513-621-3113 or www.contemporarygalleries.com.

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Modern shopping spree



Bruce Metzger, coordinator of the Cincinnati show. The 12th annual 20th Century Cincinnati: Show and Sale of Vintage Modern Design takes place February 25-26. More than 50 specialized vendors from as far away as New York will present their often one-of-a-kind collections of all things Modern, from complete furniture sets to authentic accessories. This year's show also features two new categories—clothing and music from the mid-century era.

New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Palm Springs and—Cincinnati. As one of the few cities in the nation that hosts an annual Modern design show, Cincinnati holds a special appeal because of its Midwestern location, according to

show info

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February 25-26

11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sharonville Convention Center

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Cost: \$6 for both days

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pick of guitars

Mike Reeder of Mike's Music with locations in Clifton and Covington, knows that guitars are more than music-makers; they have a beauty all their own.

Reeder showcases a collection of vintage guitars in a special display at this year's show. From arch-tops in the 20s to the golden era of electric guitars in the late 50s, each guitar has a unique tone and personality.



nifty knits

Knitwear comes via Steven Tatar, who worked down the street from Cleveland's Ohio Knitting Mills. A friend of the owner, Tatar took advantage of special access when the mill shut down—he raided the sample room, which was filled with discontinued items as well as prototypes. He found thousands of knitwear pieces from 1947 to 1974. "It's a slice of social fashion history," Tatar says.

Much of the inventory is completely unique and in mint condition. High-quality wools include everything from MOD fashion to Beatnik knitwear. Look for Tatar's inventory of cardigans, dresses, pullovers and ponchos at the show.

—Jessica Dasing

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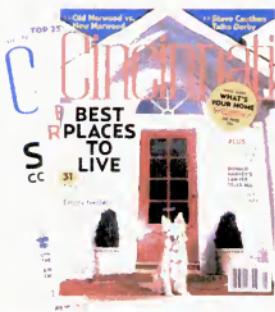
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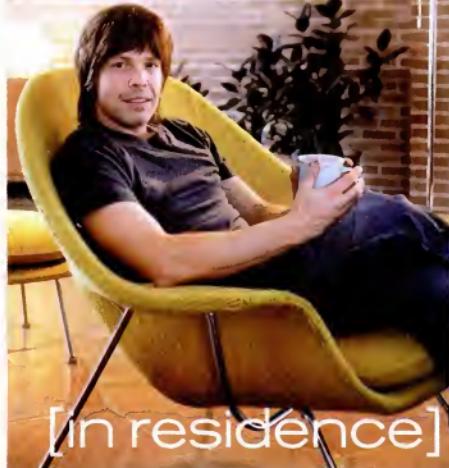


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Steve Paszt

When photographer Steve Paszt

first glimpsed the mid-century Modern haven he now calls home, he couldn't believe his good fortune. Just minutes from downtown, his street in Western Hills is an unexpected enclave of Moderns, many designed by local architect Rudy Hermes during mid-century's heyday. The original owner, from whom Paszt bought the 1958 house in 2004, left behind plastic-covered sample boards with pictures of futuristic-looking furniture and funky fabric swatches for

nearly every room in the house. Paszt, 38, explains the timeless appeal of his mid-century abode.

Going Modern: Before the house, I had nothing Modern. Now I can't live without it. The thing I like most is the simplicity—the clean lines and just the surprises in the little details.

Pleasant surprises: The first thing I noticed when I walked in here was the built-in furniture in the bedroom. The bed was still there and original to the house. In the kitchen, there is a little chute for recycling—to think



that they were thinking about recycling in 1958!

Building a collection: The first piece I went out and paid for was the sofa [by Niels Benson from Design Within Reach]. Before that, I never owned a new piece of furniture. Everything was thrift-store buys. I think the most I had ever paid for any particular piece was \$50.

Built-ins: That sculpture [above the fireplace, seen bottom right] was originally built into the house by one of Rudy Hermes' apprentices. You can also see the talent when you look around at the cabinetry and all the details. Everything is just amazing.

Favorite things: I love that the skylights also look like lights. That's one of the things that drives me crazy about Moderns—the simple touches that dial it up to a different level. Electricians suggested I have all the can lights pulled out and replaced, but there's nothing wrong with them.

Restoration 101: I'm a purist. I don't really want to change anything about this house. The built-in radio and intercom throughout the house needed to be serviced. I researched and found a company in Akron that could do it, then I built a crate for it to make sure it was protected well and shipped it to them.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Steve Paszt in his vintage Womb Chair. A rug original to Paszt's Rudy Hermes home works perfectly with the garage sale find coffee table from the next-door neighbor. The kitchen's built-ins and wood shelving attracted Paszt to the home, as did the one-of-a-kind sculpture over the fireplace (below). A Charley Harper print continues Paszt's mid-century style. Sample boards show original house plans.



Hobbies: I'm an information junkie. If you were to find me anywhere in off times, it would be in the Science and Technology Department in the public library. I spend a lot of time there.

Artistic inspiration: I try to support as much local art as possible. I have three Charley Harper prints—he's very graphically driven. His house [also designed by Rudy Hermes] is where the people who built this house saw the style and got turned on by it.

Treasure-hunting: My neighbor was selling the coffee table at his garage sale. He used it just to store boxes on in his basement to keep them from getting wet. It was pretty destroyed, I disassembled it, sanded it and refinished it myself.

Brand names: The rug is original to the house, too. It's a pretty unique piece that I really like. When it comes to Modern, people are looking for big names to be associated with it, like Knoll or Herman Miller, George Nelson—any kind of designer name. That kind of stuff doesn't really matter to me. It's about detail and something that I really like.

Sweat equity: I've poured my heart and soul into this place over the last year and a half. Redoing the floors, redoing the electric, refinishing the kitchen cabinets, which is still a work in progress. I love this place—it's an appendage of me.

Modern living: Modern style has influenced everything about me. At my old house there were a lot of tchotkies and I always felt like the walls were closing in around me. It was a really small house, too. I was in this struggle—how do I simplify, how do I minimize? This house has been the biggest simplifying of my life.

Flat roofs: There's only one drain up there. It drains to the center of the house. I've had people say, 'Why don't you put a little pitch

on your roof and put a little gutter on?' I want to maintain the integrity of the house. If I have to get up on the roof and clean that drain out 10 or 20 or 50 times a year, I don't care.

Light fantastic: Being a photographer, all the windows and the light are so key. Sunny days are spectacular. I feel like how a cat would feel laying in a window.

Favorite things, part two: My next-door neighbor Martha Peters. She's in her 90s. I go over and have a glass of wine with her a couple of times a month.

—Elissa Sonnenberg



natural wonder

Charley Harper's artistic center

BY ELISSA SONNENBERG

When Cincinnati artist

Charley Harper started painting in the 1940s, no one called him Modern. The distinctively geometrical style, a mix of straight lines and curves, came naturally to the West

Virginia native who settled in the area after meeting his wife Edie, a fellow art student at the Art Academy of Cincinnati.

Today, a new generation of fans who range from mid-century Modern enthusiasts to nature lovers to contemporary design icon Todd Oldham, recognizes Harper's work as important representations of the mid-century aesthetic. Not to mention totally cool.

"The first time I saw a Harper," says *dwell* magazine senior editor and Harper collector Sam Grawe, "it took me a few minutes to understand what I was seeing because of the flattening of perspective and reductive geometry involved." Grawe, whose feature about Harper will appear in next month's issue of *dwell*, interviewed the artist when he visited the city last year. "What amazes me about his work is that it is so similar to the vector-based art that people 60 years Charley's junior are creating now using a computer. However because it's made by hand, it has so much more personality."

"I don't know anybody that sees form and line the way he does," says Todd Oldham, fashion designer turned style guru for MTV, HGTV, Target and La-Z-Boy, to name a few. Oldham, first exposed to Harper's illustrations as a boy when he studied the 1961 "The Golden Book of Biology," tracked the artist to his Cincinnati home to learn more about him, then spent a year and a half archiving his work. "He is so mind-blowingly original," says Oldham. "He doesn't seem to have any idea what a genius he is."

Harper still paints every day in his studio attached to his home, located on several acres in a wooded lot that developers sold off cheaply because they figured no one would want to build on the hilly site. Charley and Edie, also an artist, commissioned a young University of Cincinnati graduate, Rudy Hermes, to design their home in 1958. "We call him our brilliant, unknown, unregistered architect," says Harper, who told Hermes about styles he admired, then set him free to design. "I don't think creative people should have restrictions placed upon them." Harper waits a beat, then adds, deadpan, "We had to make a few changes."

The Modern foundation upon which Charley and Edie built their home and raised their son, artist and studio manager Brett Harper, typifies the lifestyle that defined their generation. "It appealed to me because it was in line with what I was thinking about art—simplifying things, getting rid of unnecessary clutter and weeding out everything except what you need," he says. From glass walls to a flat roof, the home stands as a testament to mid-century priorities. "It's isolated in this island of woods."

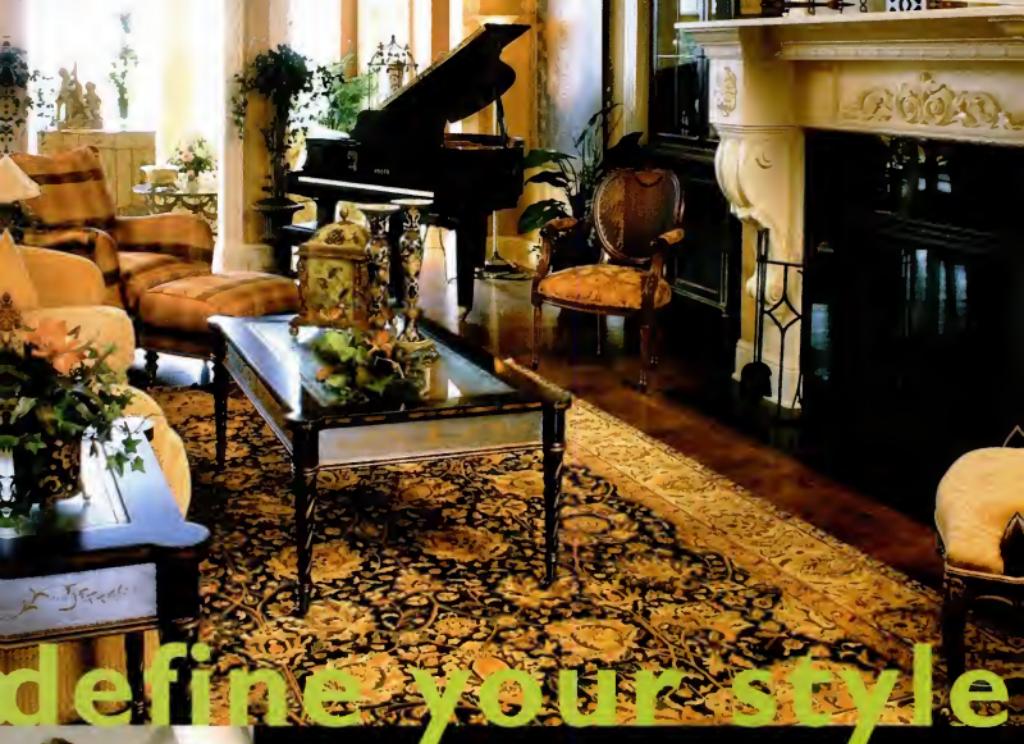
Look for a resurgence of Harper's work this year, from the 20th Century Cincinnati Show to his first exhibit at the Cincinnati Art Museum to a new collection of furnishings and accessories designed by Oldham based on iconic Harper images—imagine forms like the cardinal and the ladybug on throws, pillows and lamps—to be unveiled along with a new Harper biography this fall.

For more information about Charley and Edie Harper's work, shop the 20th Century Cincinnati Show this month, www.20thcenturycincinnati.com, visit www.fabframes.com or send an email to prtquick@eos.net.



Charley Harper, 83, works in his studio daily; a family photo shows Charley creating alongside wife Edie and son Brett; signature Harper designs include *Ladybug, Limp on a Limb* and *Chickadee*. All artwork courtesy of the Harper family.





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past presents

Preservation Association weighs in on mid-century Modern

In the first of an ongoing series of columns focusing on historic preservation in our region, we begin an exciting partnership with the Cincinnati Preservation Association. With their help and guidance, we'll feature important homes, eras and ideas that have changed and continue to shape the way we live. This month, the historic view of mid-century Modern in Cincinnati USA.

When you think of an historic home, you may picture an elegant Victorian or an Italianate row house. But at the Cincinnati Preservation Association, "historic" encompasses a broader selection of residences in our region, including those labeled mid-century Modern.

"There is good design in every period that needs to be appreciated," says Margo Warminski, preservation director at the Cincinnati Preservation Association. For homes built from the 1920s to about 1960, that appreciation has taken about half a century.

"It's a generational thing," Warminski explains. "Every generation pretty much looks down on the work of the previous generation because they associate it with their parents." While mid-century Modern always appealed to a limited audience, it took a new generation of students and architectural historians to recognize what Warminski calls the "anti-charm" of mid-century Modern design.

"[Mid-century Modern homes] are cool and sophisticated, elegant," she says. Telltale architectural details—exposed structures, aluminum, stainless steel, flat roofs, walls of glass,

and use of man-made materials such as linoleum and Formica, help historians identify true mid-century Moderns. And many of those same details have historians and preservationists on alert.

In many cases, "the original materials are starting to fail and need to be replaced," Warminski says. "That poses a preservation dilemma: What do you do with something that is not serving its purpose anymore and how do you replace it? Often the windows that were put in a lot of those buildings are failing and inefficient. That poses a preservation and environmental dilemma for homeowners."

But homeowners and architectural students who value the simplicity of mid-century Modern designs see those issues as typical preservation challenges they need to overcome to maintain the homes' many forward-thinking aspects, such as their groundbreaking dedication to creating a natural flow from indoors to outdoors.

While they search for craftspeople and materials to renovate and, in some respects at least, update their Moderns, homeowners face another potential danger. Since many mid-century Moderns were built on sites that 21st century developers admire, they are at risk of being sold not as historic homes, but as "tear-downs." A developer with an eye for prime real estate in Hyde Park, Amberley or Anderson Township may find a Modern in need of TLC the perfect plot for a new home, or what

Warminski calls "Mansionization."

Without those Moderns, the preservation expert warns, our region would lose an important piece of its architectural past that is related closely to the University of Cincinnati's School of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning's architecture program. The school brought Modern advocates to the city, and their legacy lived on in UC graduates and those they influenced alike. "We have a respectable collection of Modernist buildings," she says, mentioning pioneering local architects such as Carl Strauss and Benjamin Dombar as examples of Modern specialists who left important legacies.

Currently, the CPA is working in conjunction with the University of Cincinnati on a project to create a catalogue of mid-century Modern buildings in our midst. In addition to that ongoing project, UC will host a Modernist symposium this April.

For more information on mid-century Modern or other preservation efforts, please contact the Cincinnati Preservation Association, www.cincinnatipreservation.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The former Crowne Plaza Hotel downtown was one of the first large-scale Modern buildings designed by a female architect, Natalie Dubois. It was also one of the first major downtown building projects launched after World War II. Currently, plans to sheathe the building in a glass "slipcover" are on hold as the building remains for sale.
- Architect John Becker, husband to *Joy of Cooking* author Marion Rombauer Becker, specialized in mid-century Modern style. Their Modern home in Anderson Township has already been lost. It was torn down last year when it was sold by their son to a housing developer.
- Cincinnati Moderns were highlighted in a December 2005 *Wall Street Journal* article on real estate trends and the growing market and rising prices of mid-century Modern homes. A choice quote from the piece: "In Cincinnati, prices for homes by the Dombar brothers have also gotten a boost: In the last year, four of their homes sold after an average of six days on the market, 10 times faster than the city average."
- Carl Strauss was a native of Cincinnati and also one of the most prolific post-War Modernist architects. He studied at the University of Cincinnati and apprenticed Michael Graves in his studio.

—*Jessica Daisley*

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NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR

Western Hills 101

Western Hills is a neighborhood with elusive borders. Located in Green Township, it encompasses parts of many neighborhoods—Cheviot, Westwood and Delhi, to name a few. Many Cincinnati residents recognize a major architectural feature of Western Hills—the Western Hills Viaduct. Built between 1930 and 1932, the structure is twice as long as any of the Ohio River bridges. It connects Central Parkway and Spring Grove Avenue to Queen City and Harrison Avenues, opening up a gateway to the west. In fact, its completion brought a new stream of residents to Green Township.

The population in Western Hills, as well as much of the west side, is well-known for its strong Dutch-German roots. The west side landscape is dotted with Catholic parishes serving the majority of the population. Natives often share strong allegiances to area high schools, where generations of alumni remain active supporters.

Today, the west side continues to grow—and change. New coffee shops and swanky restaurants, such as popular chef Ron

Wise's Rondo's on Harrison Avenue, offer new opportunities to residents and draw visitors from around the region.

Fun Facts:

- Pete Rose played baseball and football for the Western Hills High School teams.
- Western Hills Sportplex offers a dodgeball league with high school, open and over 30 divisions.
- The center lane of Queen City Avenue used to change direction between morning and evening hours.
- The 125-member, nationally renowned Southern Gateway Chorus, which originally met for practices in Western Hills, will celebrate its 50th anniversary, singing barbershop harmony, next year.
- The original LaRosa's restaurant on Boudinot burned down in 1973.
- Elder High School was named for William Henry Elder, the third Catholic Archbishop of Cincinnati.



Photography by Lemos Photography



HOT SPOT

LaRosa's First Pizzeria

For over 50 years, LaRosa's has been a hometown favorite. Donald S. "Buddy" LaRosa, a west side native dreamed of owning his own business. After a little time in the Navy and a few other jobs, Buddy attended the San Antonio Roman Catholic Church's summer festival. He made up a few pizzas using his Aunt Dena's recipe. It turned out that others shared his love of her pizza. With about \$400 and a few partners, Buddy opened a pizzeria called "Papa Gino's", but later was renamed LaRosa's. Stop by the original LaRosa's pizzeria on Boudinot Avenue in Western Hills, a favorite with locals.

fun zone



Throw a strike at the Western Bowl on Glenway Avenue. This fun spot on the west side offers over 68 lanes for your bowling pleasure. For the competitive type, try joining a couples league or one just for senior citizens. The little ones might enjoy a try at bumper bowling. If you are just looking for a night out, try the glow bowling with a light show and glow-in-the-dark effects. Open 24 hours every Friday and Saturday so you can bowl the night away.



Healthy Investments

Set Shahbabian, M.D.
Neurosurgeon

Set Shahbabian, M.D. knows that financial considerations are not the only part of the bottom line. For nearly 20 years, Shahbabian has been serving patients in Western Hills. Tackling everything from spinal cord disorders to brain tumors, Dr. Shahbabian works to give the best care to each one of the 25 patients he sees on an average day.

To provide the best care, Shahbabian realized that he needed two state-of-the-art MRI machines. As a sole practitioner, he needed financial help to buy the best equipment available, and he brought his case for two new MRI machines to Fifth Third Bank.

Fifth Third Bank branch manager, and Vice President Ben Vansant, listened to Shahbabian's needs and diagnosed his business plan as healthy. "It was not only a financial decision, they saw the help to the community," says Shahbabian. He installed his first MRI machine in 2003 and his second in May of 2005. Having the most accurate MRI scanners within 110 miles allows Shahbabian to fulfill his goals and help those in need get the best possible care.

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MODERN LOVE

SUSAN RISSEK LIVES HER MID-CENTURY PASSION

BY MARNIE HAYUTIN ☀ PHOTOS BY J. MILES WOLF

WWW.JMILESWOLF.COM

B

Y THE THIRD OR FOURTH REAL ESTATE agent to whom Susan Rissover had to explain "mid-century Modern," she knew she was destined not only to be a caretaker of her own Modern home, but to champion all of them.

Meeting after meeting she'd describe the architecture style she and her husband, Arlen, sought: clean lines, open spaces, walls of windows, flat low-pitched roofs. And then the agent would cheerfully call up and urge them to drive by a "darling little house" on such-and-such street.

"Oh, look, it's a center hall colonial. Noope, that's not it," Susan recalls.

The couple eventually found the perfect home for their family of five in this 1956 Amberly Village bi-level, and Susan found her calling. Now a licensed real estate agent herself, Susan has become a nationally recognized expert on mid-century modern architecture (quoted in *Modernism Magazine* and the *Wall Street Journal*), and she's helping to educate a traditionally minded real estate community on the architectural value of these homes. With so many agents still out there who apologize for "dated" features in their mid-century listings or market these custom-designed homes as "teardowns," Susan's mission is clear: "My job as a realtor is to try to get these houses in the hands of people who will really love them and take care of them."

Few houses are more lovingly cared for than the Rissovers' own home, designed and originally owned by architect Fred Pressler. And just to clarify: If you're unsure about what constitutes mid-century Modern, this is it. With its low-pitched roof and organic, asymmetrical shape, the front of the house is nestled unobtrusively into the landscape—a hallmark of mid-century design. The back of the house is essentially a wall of windows that take advantage of dramatic wooded views. Inside, the lines and shapes are simple, with no ornate detailing or elaborate trim work, but with an unmistakable warmth of wood paneling, overhead beams and exposed brick.

Although the Rissovers knew instantly that they were buying a house with "good bones," they had to overlook what they call "an unfortunate encounter with the 80s." They removed their fair share of foil wallpaper and conventional brass light fixtures, and they repainted the Cape Cod-ish yellow and white exterior in shades of brown to blend in with the bark on the trees. But the most glaring transgression? The brick fireplace in the family room was assaulted with white crown molding and a terribly traditional set of brass doors. The Rissovers worked with designers from Dimensions DesignBuild to create the cascade of cherry wood



THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE: The Rissover's living room (opposite) is decorated entirely with furnishings by American mid-century designers, including George Nelson's Coconut Chairs, Eero Saarinen's white coffee table, Isamu Noguchi's glass coffee table and Charles Eames' wooden chairs. The rebirth of their fireplace involved removing crown molding and adding cherry wood shelves.



shelves reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater. The bottom two shelves feature touch-latch front panels that open to reveal storage for TV components.

In the kitchen, Susan went all white, replacing the nondescript, non-modern wood cabinetry that gave the kitchen a rustic cabin feel. She designed the searing area on the island in the free-form style that was typical of the era.

The house was also surprisingly lacking in many of the built-in features that characterize modern homes, such as food prep centers to hook up blenders and grinders, intercom systems and bath fans. "It was short on that real Modern 'bling,'" Susan notes. In the eight years since they purchased the house, the Rissovers have added the bling, brightening up a dark family room and hallway with skylights; building a deck off the master bedroom so inviting that even the deer have been known to stop and take in the view; and modernizing an out-of-place staircase banister with a can of stainless-steel spray paint.

Most recently, they redesigned the outside entryway to the house, restoring its 50s flair. The previous owners pulled out the original slate entry while doing some foundation work and replaced it with brick pavers—way too symmetrical for a mid-century home. After careful research into the materials and styles of the period, the Rissovers decided on large asymmetrical steps of exposed aggregate concrete, a material with a textured appeal from little rocks exposed on the surface.

"Sometimes you really have to stop and think about it," Arlen says. "Our first instinct was stamped concrete, but we thought about it and that just wouldn't be right [for the period of the home]."

Of course, much of the bling arrived with them on moving day. Since purchasing their first vintage piece in 1985—a George Nelson Ball Clock they bought for \$1 at a rummage sale—the Rissovers have amassed an impressive collection of mid-century furnishings. From the trio of George Nelson Bubble Lamps in the living room, to the sizable collection of vintage Charlie Harper prints throughout the house, to the 1950s sideboard they purchased from the Salvation Army for \$25, the furnishings are as comfortable in the house as the Rissovers are. Contemporary furniture, they say, is a pre-requisite for the mid-century homeowner.

"You see so often a beautiful Modern home with totally traditional furniture," Arlen laments. "The people who live there don't seem to have a clue that they're in a Modern design structure. They don't seem to appreciate the style at all."

The couple's most prized possession is a pair of George Nelson Coconut Chairs that Susan dis-



OPPOSITE PAGE AND THIS PAGE: In the dining area, the Rissovers added Scandinavian mid-century Modern to their design palette. Table, chairs and all accessories in the Cylynda line come from Danish designer Arne Jacobsen. Alvar Alto vases are from iittala, a Finnish glass company and the light fixture is Poul Henningsen's PH-5. George Nelson's Coconut Chairs (above) were the couple's favorite mid-century Modern find—they discovered them in a phone company lobby in Indiana.



THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: Downstairs, the colors in the Rissover bedrooms and family living areas reflect a thorough grasp of mid-century Modern style. Grays, blues and greens add a sense of coolness to the spaces. In the bedroom, the arctic feel is enhanced with sparkly paint and the back wall—it's a textured paint with quartz crystals—and sea-themed prints by local illustrator and mid-century art icon Charley Harper.

covered in the lobby of a phone company in Lafayette, Ind. Spotting them through the window as she drove past the building, Susan stopped the car and ran in for a closer look; it was 1985, and at this point she had only seen the classic chair in design books. As luck would have it, the company was redecorating, and new chairs were on order. They sold her the *Coconut Chairs* for a \$25 donation to the American Heart Association.

"They're definitely our signature pieces," Susan says, noting that they have pictures of all three of their children—as well as a variety of assorted friends, relatives and pets—asleep in those chairs. "They're comfortable, they look good, and I think they just really say what we're all about."

Don't expect to drive by too many mid-century treasures today, though. The climate has changed dramatically in recent years; dealers quickly snatched up the bargains as modern started to come back into vogue. Not too long after the *Coconut Chairs* coup, Arlen saw one on eBay for \$9,000. Commercials for everything from Target stores to allergy medications are now being filmed in Modern homes, and the Rissovers are often approached by companies looking for locations.

"It's gotten through that whole dated business, and now it's just really cool and retro," Susan says. "Modern is a buzzword right now. There are people who are into it because it's hot, and then there are people who are into it because it's what they love, and you've got both of those segments in the market right now."

But mid-century Modern is not a fad for Susan. She remembers at 5 years old asking her mom to drive down a particular street so she could admire the cool houses. She's also never worried about whether her pieces appreciate in value or about keeping them in mint condition; she's simply surrounded herself with the pieces she loves—it's about enjoying the design, not collecting it.

Now as a real estate agent, Susan is connecting with fellow modernists and addressing the needs of homebuyers who, like her, don't think these houses are dated. As a case in point, she had a listing last July that most agents would consider to be a challenge: a two-bedroom mid-century house in Amberly Village. Although she priced it higher than any two-bedroom had ever sold for in Amberly, she was still fielding calls from people wanting to make an offer two weeks after she had a contract on the house.

"If I had five or six of those houses I could have sold them for full price," Susan recalls. "There is a demand [for Modern], you just have to market it to the right people and find the people who want it."



Growing up mid-century Modern

As Cincinnati architect Benjamin Dombar approaches 90, his daughter reflects on his work

“W

“We grew up feeling that Frank Lloyd Wright was part of our family,” says Rockell Meese. For Meese, the daughter of architect and former Wright apprentice Benjamin Dombar, mid-century Modern wasn’t just about rooflines or windows. For the middle daughter of a man who contributed more than 1,000 homes to the Cincinnati landscape, it was a way of life.

“The kinds of things that my father learned from Mr. Wright were so much more than architecture,” she says. “The stress was on non-materialism and appreciating the beauty of nature and the design of everything.”

You can usually tell when you’re in a Benjamin Dombar house, she notes. Like Wright, his focus was on bringing family together and on experiencing the natural surroundings. Large stone hearths invite people to sit around the fireplace and revel in each other’s company. Dramatic windows make the outside an extension of the house, an effect drawn from Wright’s concept of “organic architecture.”

With Cincinnati’s wooded enclaves and river views, few cities were better poised for this style of design. Dombar made the hilly terrain to its best advantage, Meese says, delighting in the challenging hillside properties on which no one else would attempt to build.

“He took a perfectly magnificent piece of nature and tried to put a house into it without disturbing it,” she says.

Dombar homeowners admire his sense of surprise. From the road, the homes are usually unassuming, if they’re visible at all. Inside is a different picture, with breathtaking vistas through floor-to-ceiling windows.

“The entryway is not anything that you would get excited about,” Everett Rudisell says of his Dombar home near North Bend, Ohio. “But then you walk just a little bit further, and you have this view—out of probably 25 windows—the Ohio River and the hills of Kentucky. It’s the same with Wright’s houses—when you first walk in the door you might say, ‘Nothing here grabs me.’ But then all of a sudden you go around a bend or you move into a particular area, and wham! the house hits you.”

Dombar is now nearly 90 years old. His seven years as a member of the Taliesin Fellowship began in 1934 and marked a notable era for Frank Lloyd Wright designs. Among the 50 projects designed and built during Dombar’s apprenticeship were Fallingwater in Pennsylvania, Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Ariz., and the *Life Magazine* house in Two Rivers, Wisc. And then, after serving in the Army during WWII, Dombar returned home to Cincinnati where, according to local mid-century experts, he not only brought Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired architecture but made it affordable for everyone.

As a child, however, Meese was only vaguely aware of her father’s contribution to Cincinnati architecture. She simply remembers an architect who cared for his homes like a doctor cares for his patients. Meese would tag along with her father as he made daily inspections of his houses under construction. Years later, if one of those homeowners needed help with a leaky roof or a consultation on new flooring options, Dombar was on his way.

“Once my father designed a house for someone, he became like one with the family,” Meese says.

Meese also describes a childhood infused with Taliesin’s lessons in innovation and creativity. She has a collection of handmade cards that her father has given her for various occasions over the years. In the Taliesin spirit of recycling, Dombar once built Meese an exquisite table out of an oddly shaped piece of driftwood he found near her cottage in Hawaii (Meese was a student there in the 1970s).

Of course, nowhere is Dombar’s innovation more apparent, Meese notes, than in the yellow, hexagonal-shaped house he built for his family. Nestled miraculously in the bank of the Congress Run Creek in Springfield Township, the house offers four levels of panoramic views of the creek and surrounding woods.

Fashioning everything by hand, Dombar used creek bed stones as the floor in the foyer, along the backsplash in the kitchen and around the huge fireplace to allow to creek to “run” through the house. He integrated pull-out stepstools into the bottom kitchen cabinetry so his wife, Shirley, could reach the high shelves. And he installed small sections of stone flooring near the windows to serve as impervious surfaces for houseplants.

“When it came to living everyday life, there was a simplicity about what was important and a solution to every problem,” Meese reflects. “That was just part of our life, that you can do something that no one else has done.”



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OPPOSITE PAGE: Benjamin and Shirley Dombar with daughter Rockell Meese's family at a 2002 Taliesin reunion in Wisconsin. Pictured from left to right Shirley Dombar, Benjamin Dombar, Nathan Meese, Dr. Ernest Meese, Rockell Meese and Donyel Meese. TOP: Apprentices working with Frank Lloyd Wright. Dombar is second from the left. RIGHT: Dombar in the drafting room with Frank Lloyd Wright in 1937.



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back to the future

new kitchens pay homage to mid-century tastes

BY COLEEN ARMSTRONG

One day in 1958, Lucy, Ricky, Fred and Ethel decided to go appliance shopping. During a commercial break from Desilu Playhouse, they entered a Westinghouse showroom to interact with spokeswoman and former model Betty Furness—and then all five fawned over the new double-oven ranges, the front-load-

ing automatic washers and the "upside-down" refrigerators with bottom freezer compartments claiming to hold 190 pounds of food.

At three-and-a-half minutes, that commercial now seems not only dated, but mind-numbing in length—unless you take into account the products it's pushing: gor-

geous, glitzy kitchen and laundry options. Imagine, a machine that washed your dishes and saved an entire hour each day of what Ozzie's wife Harriet called in her own pitch, "disagreeable work."

Consumers were enthralled. Sales took off. Four full years before "The Jetsons" would debut in 1962, and American homes were already catapulted into a new technological age.

Streamlined kitchens filled with motorized humming soon became family-friendly gathering places. "Those appliances were the first shot at introducing what had previously been a merely functional room," explains Frank Kminek, brand manager for Jenn-Air. "Now the kitchen is the hub, the hive of any home—and very likely where a couple decides to invest the most money."

Have we indeed come a long way, baby, in just 50 years? Well, yes and no. While microwave ovens were still the stuff of science fiction until the early '80s, what's most surprising is which '50s and '60s innovations have endured for decades, despite a few twists and turns along the way. The pervasive influence of what we now term mid-century Modern persists.

TOUCHES OF THE PAST

What's back from the days of Ricky and Lucy? Believe it or not, laminates—in flooring, tabletops, even cabinetry—are suddenly chic again. High-end laminate cabinets can, in fact, look more luxurious than wood. Vinyl-covered seating and flecked Formica tables sit on chrome bases and legs. Linoleum "rugs" partially cover and therefore accent hardwood floors. As for countertops, they're definitely back in the race, says Jen Bracke, designer at Ferguson Kitchen & Bath Gallery in Sharronville. "There's a high-definition laminate available now that bridges the gap between older laminates and solid surfaces. In matte plus shiny finishes and natural earth tones, it looks so much like granite that some professionals can hardly tell the difference."

Also, pantries—a staple in most Victorian-era homes—disappeared for many years until homeowners finally realized that no amount of cabinet storage was ever enough. Now we're seeing walk-ins again, or else long, narrow pullouts.

Colored appliances, even in ruby red, lemon yellow and cobalt blue. (And to think that a mere 30 years ago we were so delighted to kiss avocado goodbye.) Seamless vintage



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looks. It's once again possible to locate a refrigerator with rounded edges in cafeteria green. Add a built-in booth for cushioned seating, and you've happily channeled 1959.

MODERN REFINEMENTS

So what's different? Substantial energy savings, for one thing. Retailers regularly remind us that today's front-loading washers (an intriguing bit of retro-styling) save significant amounts of both water and power—and that 1990 fridge you're keeping in the garage for patio parties may also be contributing substantially to your electric bill.

Also, silence. Homeowners in the late-1950s might have been fascinated at first by the gurgling sounds their new dishwashers made, but interest wore thin when they couldn't even hear Rod Serling's opening narrative.

Space-savers. In a kitchen or laundry room, every square inch counts. Those 1956 washers and dryers look gargantuan compared to our now-standard 27-inchers. Except for the largest Sub-Zeros, even our refrigerators are smaller. One early Kelvinator measured "only" 47 inches!

Branding. Although brands certainly gained momentum during the '50s, few of us would purchase appliances today with such stodgy names as Norge and Bendix, no matter how well they might perform. Viking, Wolf, Dacor and GE Profile, on the other hand, convey much different images—sleek designs combined with massive endurance and reliability. Also, the kitchen is one place, says Kminek, where logos are visible with instant recognition value. "Do you know what brand your furnace is?" he queries. "Your drywall or siding? Probably not. But your Jenn-Air oven? Absolutely."

MID-CENTURY STAPLES

Finally, what never went away? Kitchen islands, which provide ideal roomy workspaces—except now they're bigger and include their own prep sinks. Breakfast nooks—although today they're called morning rooms. (You'd feel like J.R. Ewing if you had to eat your scrambled eggs sitting at a solid mahogany dining table under a crystal chandelier.)

Integration. Those early built-in dishwashers have given way to paneled versions that blend so well with custom cabinetry that they seem invisible. The appliance garage, integration's mini-

me, shows no sign of vanishing, either.

And finally, appliances as art objects. One TV commercial from 1956 features several minutes of an attractive couple piroqueting around spiffy new washers, dryers, ranges and refrigerators. American consumers haven't been quite the same since.

"Even the KitchenAid mixers are unbelievably beautiful," adds Jen Bracke. "The colors, the curves, the flow—then you add corresponding lighting, faucets and finishes, and everything works together with the appliances to create a room that's visually pleasing."

Meanwhile, there's always a palpable hunger for something new and hot. Jenn-Air's current answer is a floating glass finish on either black or white appliances, which offers high-gloss drama and sparkle to dishwashers, refrigerators and ovens and also makes cleaning them a breeze. "The curved front and the sleek towel-bar handle in stainless work with every style, from traditional to contemporary, even Asian," says Frank Kmínek. "People were ready for a fresh look, and they're responding to this one very, very well."

At Angert's Appliances in College Hill, salesman Tom Schatz has been on the selling floor since 1960. He's long grown accustomed to people's oohing and aahing over the highest-end appliance options. But he also remembers something around late-mid century called an eye-level range, where one oven was situated beneath the burners with another above—and then, if vertical space allowed, perhaps a microwave and then a ventilation hood. Gone, but not forgotten.

"You'd be surprised," he says, "at the number of people who still come in asking for it."

Schatz also recalls one Westinghouse commercial from the days of live TV when Betty Furness tried to open a refrigerator door, and it stuck. She continued to tug, to no avail. Still, she kept her job; celebrity endorsement was as powerful then as it is now.

We may never see Tyra Banks assembling four housewives wearing their Sunday hats and gloves, as Furness once did, to test four different washer performances by dumping cups of dirty sand onto their snow-white terry towels. But Ashton and Demi blissfully sorting their Maytag wash loads? Tom and Katie eagerly stocking their stainless-steel Northland with festive trays of canapés? That's another matter—and, given the continuous mid-century influence that only grows stronger with time, still a definite possibility.

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this modern life

Wright home owner shares her journey

BY JANET GROEBER

I don't know many couples who get into heated discussions weighing the aesthetics of opaque stain versus transparent, but it's a topic my husband, Chuck Lohre, and I debate often. Then again, most of our conversations these days are about the house we've called home for nearly three years. America's celebrated architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, designed our 2,500-square-foot Clifton home. Yes, after the much-publicized 2003 auction, we ultimately purchased the two-story Usonian home Wright created in 1954 for Patricia and Cedric Boulter. And it's

been non-stop Modern design education since.

FAMILIAR EXTREMES

The home features iconic Wright elements such as an expansive glass facade, overhangs, a cantilevered balcony and a flat roof. Wright favored flat roofs in his later homes, which are famous for their tendency to leak.

We're dry thanks to the previous owners, who not only added downspouts (Wright didn't believe in them), but replaced the original tar-and-pitch bituminous roof with

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a composite type in the late '90s. Luckily for preservationists of Modern architecture, says Patrick Snadon, associate professor of interior design at UC, "Later 20th century and early 21st century building technologies and materials often make it easier to preserve and restore structures than they were to build."

Today's rubber membrane roofing, he says, protects flat roofs much better than tar-and-pitch bituminous mixtures used when the structures were originally constructed.

We connected with Professor Snadon when his students toured our home as part of their study of Modern architecture in Cincinnati. His group researched and reported on a wide range of Modern design from enclaves of Modern houses off Galbraith Road and streets in Western Hills to the early homes of Cincinnati architects Carl Strauss and Ray Roush as well as the work of Woodie Garber and David Niland. Chuck and I have been known to cruise streets in Finneytown and Amberley Village looking for Moderns.

MAD FOR MODERNS

We've also met a number of vintage mid-century homeowners through Cincinnati Form Follows Function (CF3), a non-profit organization that hopes to connect people with a passion for Modern design and save homes from "modern death," such as the addition of pitched roofs over flat ones or loss of period details such as built-ins during insensitive remodeling. Members hope to serve as Modern design resources for contractors, homeowners, educators and devotees.

Two CF3 founders, Christopher and Wendy McGee, discovered their 1953 gem—make that diamond-in-the-rough—in Padlock Hills. They're the fifth owners of a two-level, 2,800-square-foot Benjamin Dombar-designed home and in the process of restoring it. (Early in his architecture career, Cincinnati native Dombar, a Wright apprentice, acted as construction manager for the Boulter House.)

"What appeals to us are the clean lines and minimal aesthetic," explains Chris, an ar-



chitect with FRCH Design Worldwide. Until they began working with a realtor, though, they didn't think they could find affordable local options.

In the first seven months of home ownership, Christopher and Wendy, a Head Start

teacher with Cincinnati Union Bethel, "purged" window treatments, wallpaper, carpet and landscaping not in keeping with the original style. Their "great room," a Wright-inspired concept that brings living and dining functions together, features a soaring ceiling, a wall of windows and fireplace flanked by built-in shelves.

Current projects include repair of a serious roof leak this spring. Christopher knows they're facing complete roof and trim replacement, too. Ambitious future projects include a total kitchen remodel to remove later-'80s cabinets and countertops. He and Wendy want to remove an added-on rear solarium. He's hoping to find the home's plans to study design of the original deck and other features. Restoration will likely take 10 years, since they plan to touch every room, including baths. Minor jobs range from reconditioning window frames, replacing an upstairs railing and removing all trim on doors and baseboards.

Next door, literally, Diane Garrity and husband Todd Farmer live in a 1951 home designed by Abram Dombar, Berl's brother and one-time Wright apprentice. Unlike the McGee's, Garrity and Farmer's brick and concrete home was in considerably better shape.

Says Garrity, marketing director at Harley Ellis Devereaux and a co-founder of CF3, "Our home inspector said before we closed on it, 'This is one sturdy little house.'" Original lighting fixtures remain, as do custom drapes in the living room. A kitchen redo is in their future, and while they don't plan to restore it to original condition, they do have the house's plans for reference. "Seems like there was a budget crisis during construction and some details got nixed," Garrity says. This spring, they'll start with the glass-block windows originally planned for the bathrooms.

TOMORROW'S MODERNS TODAY

Chuck and I have begun attending CF3 meetings—we already learned the name of the city's best flat roofer. In turn, we can share names of electricians, woodworkers and plumbers who aren't afraid of tackling Modern homes.

Since our lives changed that day back in June 2003, we've become involved in a number of organizations devoted to the study and preservation of Wright's work. We met Kevin Byrd, who coincidentally considered buying the Boulter House even though he lives in Columbus. Byrd, who is regional marketing director for Columbus-based M/I Homes, has become

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nearly expert on Wright and his contemporaries. He's been able to turn his passion for Modern architecture into a job asset. In translating housing trends for the mass market, Byrd says, "A lot of people think they like contemporary homes because they don't know what contemporary is." When you say contemporary, Byrd explains, "They think vaulted ceilings and lots of windows, but if you showed them a mid-century Modern, they'd go, 'Whoa, no, no not that.'" What they want, Byrd explains, is "touches like high ceilings, window walls and lots of glass and natural light, but they don't want a flat roof."

LIVING FULL CIRCLE

Well, about that flat roof. We learned our first winter—numbingly cold even with the radiant heat system Wright pioneered in the 1930s—that the house lacked sufficient insulation. Sticker-shock accompanied a heating bill that topped \$500.

With the newer roof, and because the home is constructed of concrete block, insulation opportunities were limited. Chuck hit a short-term fix: He layered large sheets of 4-inch-thick Styrofoam on the roof and secured them with concrete pavers. He also sandwiched Mylar "space blankets" between the living room drapes' fabric and lining, which lowered the temperature upstairs 10 degrees and reflected the radiant heat back into the living room.

A furnace inspection revealed the expansion tank needed to be replaced. Hours of after-work caulking sealed the house and allowed us to move (without extra layers of clothing) to our first real project—the kitchen "cubby."

At 8 feet by 10 feet, the kitchen space is Wright at his most efficient. Mahogany cabinets flank what Wright called the "Work Space." While we hadn't planned to completely redo the kitchen, our decision to switch from an electric cooktop to a gas one required reorienting both the dishwasher and sink. The need to run a gas line from the basement led us on the hunt for help.

I won't forget one contractor's reaction when we asked him to quote the job reusing all existing cabinets. He replied that it wouldn't save us much money—we thought everyone would share our idea of restoring the kitchen, not replacing it. Finally, we met Dan Kreimer, a Cincinnati-based designer and builder of custom furniture, who accepted the job. Work began in late September 2004. Not only was he

translating tube style

Mention 1950s home design to Susan Roettgers, an interior designer with John Hueber Homes, Loveland, and she immediately turns to sitcoms like "The Dick Van Dyke" show. Well, Rob and Laura Petrie's kitchen had an island with cooktop and a built-in wall oven, certainly trendsetting for the times. Don't forget "Bewitched", Roettgers says, recalling that Sam and Darrin Stephens' kitchen featured a slide-out cooktop, a first-floor study and open stairs looking into the living room. "We're still building the clean lines of the ranch house," Roettgers explains, "but we've gone the next step with the forward-thinking elements of those days. Entertainment space is even more important with TVs in each." Look for kitchens with adjoining hearth rooms, hidden appliances, upscale bar areas and wine storage spaces, to name a few.

—Janet Crocker

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sensitive to our plan, but he and Pat Boulter have been friends for years—a good omen.

Guided by the home's original plans, Dan removed all cabinetry and refit them with new interiors and amenities, such as rolling butler drawers. He designed a cabinet to hold our new cooktop and found an artistic wood refinisher, Mark DeJong, to match new wood with the old we reclaimed. We even resurfaced counters with a very close match to the original stop-sign red laminate we found during the tearout.

Nearly four months later, we celebrated our restored "Work Space" with a Wright tea attended by Pat, Dan and Mark along with Ben Dombar and his wife, Shirley. Shirley told stories of being at Taliesin and having to prepare the daily tea of finger sandwiches and sweet treats for Wright and the apprentices.

The house was warm that March day, thanks to Chuck's engineering. Our celebration of all things Wright with some of those who knew him best remains one of our best memories. Still, I can't help thinking what the Master would say about one of our next projects, the one that calls for maintaining the redwood and Douglas fir exterior trim. Opaque or transpar-



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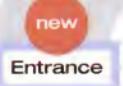
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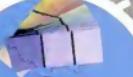
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timeless designs

sleek mid-century furnishings find new homes

BY JUDI KETTELER

From World War II through the mid-1960s, advances of the machine age inspired designers and architects in both Europe and America to create sleek, organic furniture and accessories in styles we now know as mid-century Modern. Their work acted as a continuation of the 1920s Modernist movement, and their clean-lined

aesthetic continues to guide designers today.

Think mid-century Modern and iconic pieces automatically come to mind—Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's Barcelona chair, George Nelson's Sunburst Clock. Local retailers and dealers agree that whether you're in search of a major "name" designer or just in love with that mid-

century look, you'll find great options throughout our region. The key is knowing where, and how, to look.

OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Many leading mid-century Modern furniture designers were actually architects. They designed pieces to fit in specific spaces, much like visionary architect Frank Lloyd Wright had done. Good design guided their work, as did a new sensitivity to the challenges of mass manufacturing.

"The goal was to make good design attainable," says Deborah Kurak, partner, designer and buyer for Contemporary Galleries downtown. "It was also about the beauty of the form." True mid-century pieces, now identified as "retro," are characterized by solid craftsmanship, with ornamentation kept to a minimum. "These designers stripped pieces down to clean lines," Kurak says. A decade or so ago, it wasn't too hard to find inexpensive, good quality retro items at yard sales and flea markets. Vintage shops were well-stocked. While consumers weren't exactly shunning mid-century Modern, they weren't embracing it on a large scale—until a few years ago.

"This whole decade is about a return to the importance of good design," explains Dawn Schwartzman, owner of Enriching Spaces (previously ISI) in Forest Park. "And it's so cross-generational. My generation remembers, and the younger generation is discovering all of these great designs."

VINTAGE FINDS

So where can you find authentic mid-century pieces? Several nationally known dealers located in town offer time-tested advice.

"Do as much reading as you can," says Mark Fisk, co-owner and founder of Mainly Art in Over-the-Rhine. "Get every book that you can get—that will educate you on what you're looking for."

A crash course can help you begin to recognize styles and iconic names, the types of pieces that Fisk calls "today's new antiques." The bent plywood and molded Fiberglas chairs by husband-and-wife team Charles and Ray Eames. The revolutionary storage systems and graphic wall clocks of George



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Nelson. The free-formed, glass-topped tables of sculptor Isamu Noguchi. Thin-legged tables and chairs by Paul McCobb. Angular tables and storage units by Florence Knoll.

"My favorite is George Nelson," says Fisk, whose shop carries items from Art Deco through the 1970s, but specializes in mid-century. "He was really on the cutting edge of furniture." As head of design for prolific Modern manufacturer Herman Miller from 1946 until 1972, Nelson not only designed his own pieces, such as the Coconut Chair and Sunburst Clock, he recruited the Eameses, among others, to the Herman Miller team.

"The icons are the ones to collect now," says Fisk, who founded Mainly Art 15 years ago.

David G. Smith, owner of designsmith-gallery on Main Street adds a caveat. "You have to decide as best you can what you want," he says. "Are you buying as a collector or for utility? It's nice to cover both bases."

A knowledgeable dealer can help you find authentic items as well as avoid costly mistakes, says Smith, who gives new collectors

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unique advice. "You never need as much as you think you do," he maintains. "You need a good place to sit down, you need a bed, you might need something to put a little bit of clothing in and some barstools to sit down on in the kitchen. You may need a small dining set." Beyond that, as Modernists would say, less is more. "It's better to buy one good piece than three pieces that aren't," Smith says.

But names aren't all that's important when it comes to building a mid-century collection, according to Alex Chronis, who owns Cincinnati Modern Gallery in Camp Washington. "Buy what you love," Chronis says. "Focus on exactly what you like and spend the money. If you buy correctly, your choice will always be worth what you paid and gain in value over time."

While he's seen an increase in local demand for mid-century, the bulk of Chronis' business still comes from impassioned mid-century collectors on both coasts and overseas—one New York couple placed an ottoman he sold them in a *Metropolitan Home* photo spread.

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"Buying in Cincinnati is one of the smartest things you can do," Chronis explains. "This is the least expensive place in the country to buy it."

ORIGINAL REPRODUCTIONS

Another great option: Invest in a reproduction piece. To make sure you're getting a true reproduction, buy only from companies that hold the exclusive license to reproduce the pieces according to the original designs. An authorized Herman Miller dealer, Enriching Spaces carries Eames pieces (including the Lounge and Ottoman, which sells for about \$2,800). Herman Miller has always been the manufacturer and distributor for Eames, as well as Nelson, so as long as you buy from an authorized Herman Miller dealer, you'll get the real deal.

For reproduction pieces from Knoll, including van der Rohe's popular Barcelona Chair (originally designed for the Barcelona World Exhibition in 1929), head to Voltage in Oakley. "Knoll makes it to exact standards," says Jeff Hinkel, owner of Voltage, which means it's made from stainless steel, with crossed leather strapping and real down cushioning. They also carry Knoll reproductions of Eero Saarinen designs, including immensely popular pieces like the Tulip Chair and the Womb Chair. Most recently, they've added Hans Wegner pieces—reproduced by Carl Hansen & Son. "A lot of Wegner's stuff reflects a fascination with Chinese antiques."



Carl Koch Chair

Barcelona Lounge Chair



Hinkel says. That's not surprising, since many mid-century Modern designers drew from the Asian design for inspiration.

MODERN ADAPTATIONS

Creating a mid-century Modern look doesn't mean you're limited to the designs of the '50s and '60s. Today's designers constantly reference mid-century Modern, and shops that specialize in the Mod look, such as Abode in Covington, have an array of pieces to choose from at reasonable prices. "We have lots of pieces that reflect the mid-century Modern look," says Julie Stengle, who co-owns Abode with her husband, Barney.

It's about interesting color combinations, like chocolate and powder blue, lime green, aqua and lots of oranges. "Splashes of color, with a focus on more geometric or free form shapes—that's all very retro," Stengle says.

A great way to incorporate the mid-century Modern look is to start with a more neutral, traditional sofa—a clean-lined off-white or tan one—and then add some great chairs, and maybe a retro-look rug.

The Mod look doesn't need to be all or nothing. It blends nicely with many different looks. If you have an urban loft space, you're set. But you don't need exposed ductwork, high ceilings and a downtown address to make the style work. A retro console from a flea market can look great in a suburban room with transitional furniture; some funky lighting, splashes of color and new art can help pull the look together.

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Don't forget about incorporating accessories as well, Schwartzman says, like sculptural pieces, '50s lamps, wire wall sculptures and brightly colored glass vases. Search out colorful vintage fabric, like Marimekko prints, and recover a chair or pillow or make a window treatment.

"Dining room chairs are another great place to start," Kurak says. Mid-century Modern chairs can look great with lots of different types of dining tables—especially glass tables. "There are no hard-and-fast rules about mixing styles," she says. "It's all about proportion." Modern pieces can even feel at home beside antiques. "Deco French pieces and Asian antiques, especially—because they have such an austere appearance—mix really well with mid-century," Hinkel says.

KNOCK-OUT KNOCK-OFFS

The bottom line is whether or not you identify with the piece and want to make it part of your home. Splurging on a reproduction Barcelona Chair is pointless unless you absolutely adore it, and aren't afraid to use it. "You don't have to spend a lot of money to get a great look," Stengle says.

Also, "knock-offs" from mass retailers often get a bad rap. While it's true that pieces from Ikea are not made to last forever, the basic design elements are there, and if that's all your budget allows for, it's a great place to start.

It all comes down to what you're after: a classic piece that will stand the test of time, and possibly become an heirloom, or a less expensive—but no less stylish—piece that will start you on the path. In the end, mid-century Modern lives on as a celebration of the age, of good design and of possibility.

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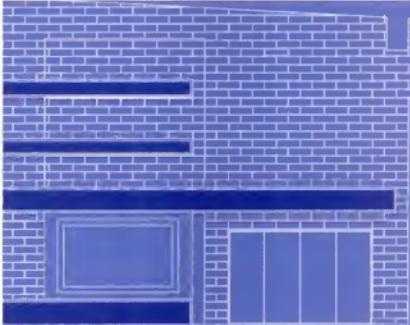
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things that you'd never find in a maiden aunt's estate. Like the full-size wooden horse at one end of the hall—"Sixteen hands high with glass eyes and real mane and tail," according to Charlie Poppe, who is chattering with several members of Cowan's staff. The jocular Poppe, who lives in Anderson Township, has been collecting carriages and harnesses for most of his 59 years. This figure, he tells me, is a wooden display horse used by a harness-maker who once had a shop downtown on Central Parkway. Poppe knows this horse: He tried to buy it at auction in 1984, but Marge outbid him. He's going to try again.

"Marge was into horses," Poppe says. There's a sleigh here, inside the hall, and a black buggy outside—the buggy that used to stand in the Schott Buick showroom—and there's a Sicilian donkey cart displayed near the auctioneer's stand. "It's the nicest one I've seen," he says, crouching down to point out details. The cart is painted with Bible scenes, and the leather harnesses are decorated with colored ribbons. "If it were at a carriage auction, it would bring \$15,000 to \$20,000," he speculates. "I have no clue how she wound up with it."

Marge Schott is sort of the perfect storm in the world of estate sales. She came from an old family, married into an affluent one, had interests, hobbies, and philanthropies, never had children, and lived most of her adult life on a sprawling estate where her husband amassed a huge art and antiques collection before he died in 1968. Then, as fate would have it, she became involved in professional sports, a pastime that absolutely breeds gewgaws. And the ever-thrifty Mrs. Schott seems to have hung on to everything.

By the time the auction is scheduled to begin, at 1 p.m., there are 500 or so people roaming the hall, pretty evenly split between men and women. Gene Rohne, who lives nearby in Anderson Township and who attends a lot of sales, says that the crowd includes a lot of auction house regulars. "It's Friday afternoon," he points out. "That takes a lot of people who'd just want to come and look out of the equation." He's here partly because he collects antiques and partly because of Marge. "She was a pretty neat lady," he says.

An elderly couple toddles in slowly, the husband on oxygen, wheeling the canister behind him. A girl who couldn't be more than a teenager takes a call on her cell

phone. "I'm at the Marge Schott auction," she tells her caller. "I thought—it's close and I should go." So here I am. Three well-dressed women settle into chairs in the audience. "Not really anything I'm interested in," says one, taking out her knitting. Interested or not, she appears to be staying.

Before things get underway, I stop to speak with Marge's sister, Bobbi Unnewehr, and Tom Hudepohl, a friend of the family. "It's just a great day," says Unnewehr, surveying the scene. "It's sad, of course. But I think Marge would be proud."

Hudepohl chuckles. "Marge would say, 'What's the big deal, honey?'"

THE FIRST ITEM Cowan puts on the block is a large hand-decorated bowl that says "Thanks Marge and Schottzie." He starts the bidding at \$300, but nobody bites. Eventually it sells for \$75. A few more lots pass like this, with moderate interest. Then a small "Schotts Lager" sign fetches \$475—"Way over my head" laughs Rohne. He jokes that he couldn't even afford to pay the premium—the 15 percent that's tacked on to each sale to cover the cost of the auction itself.

Now the crowd is warmed up, and when Cowan offers the celebrity photos as a group ("You get the pope and Jim Bunning," he teases) he gets \$350. Eight vanity license plates ("Marge," "MS," "Schott," and others) go for \$300. Anter bids on Marge's tooled leather desk set, but drops out before it sells at \$200. Schottzie II's feeding station—the one that Cowan carted around on his television appearances to publicize the event—commands \$150. The Limoges punch bowl is purchased by a call-in bidder for \$600. After furious bidding, a stainless steel cocktail shaker in the shape of an airplane racks up \$2,000. "I thought it would go for \$500," says Rohne, shaking his head. A wood carving of a boy on a St. Bernard sets off a bidding war, too. Nippert gets it for \$1,250. Later he tells me that it sat on the landing in the Schott house; he remembers seeing it whenever he visited. "That was Marge," he says.

Cowan takes a break, turning the auction block over to auctioneer Dave Forsythe. In contrast to Cowan's quick, smooth cajoling, Forsythe's style is clipped and commanding. *Now six now seven now eight now nine, looking for a thousand*—it's the classic "Lucky Strike" sound of a tobacco auctioneer. A couple of his assistants dolly out two gilded statues—elaborately carved

cherubs posed on pedestals. Forsythe pauses a beat, perhaps searching for the right words to express the rococo magnificence of these items. They're "probably Italian," he says. Which is probably true, because I'm thinking I saw something like them on an episode of *The Sopranos*. "They speak for themselves," Forsythe concludes.

There's aggressive bidding for an elegant tantalus (a glass liquor cabinet that looks like a jewel box); for the massive 17th century table; and for the leather couch and chairs from Charles Schott's study. A chair carved to look like a bear sells for more than \$15,000 to a telephone bidder. But the antique donkey cart slips away for just \$1,500. When someone snaps up a beautiful porcelain Japanese doll for \$150, Cowan gives a quick, subtle nod. "Congratulations," he says to the buyer. "Nice piece." I assume this is auction-ese for *great buy*.

Gene Rohne buys a pair of mounted steer horns ("I always have to get something stupid" he laughs), a beer sign, and a Buick paperweight with Marge's name on it. Albert Nippert buys Marge's Lenox wedding china and a set of wooden carvings—the heads of the apostles—which, he recalls, Marge bought on a trip to see the passion play at Oberammergau. Pam Anter drops out of the bidding quickly when the girl-with-dog picture comes up, but she does get a painting of Schottzie II sitting in the out-field. It won't go into her shop; this she'll keep for herself. "The Asian people say that the spirit stays with the item," Anter says. "I find that to be true."

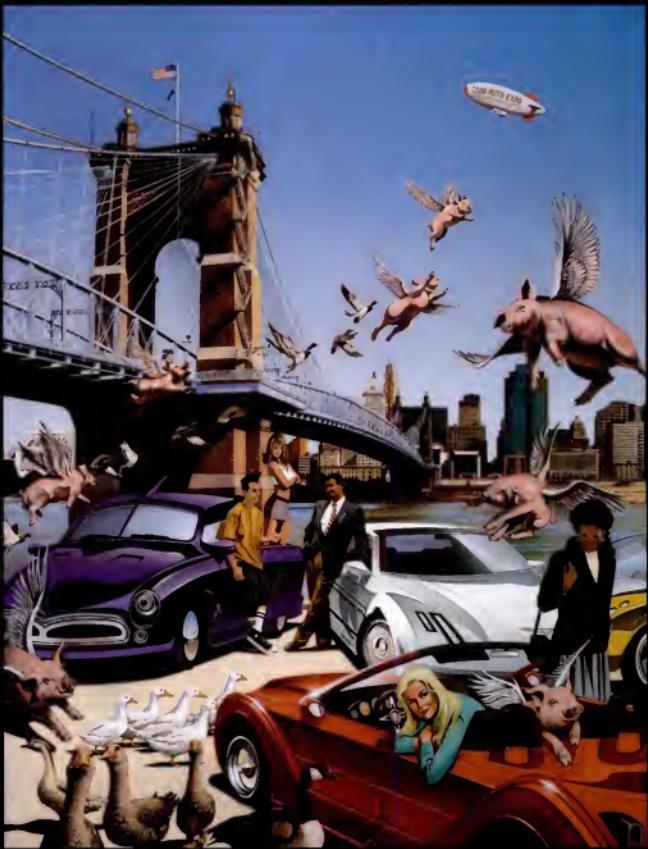
Bidding starts on the harness-maker's display horse, and for a while it looks like Charlie Poppe will get it for his opening offer of \$500. But eventually someone else chimes in and he has to spend \$1,100. Afterward, the other bidder introduces herself. When she learns that he's a serious collector of such things, she says he's glad he got it—she just wanted it for her front yard. Poppe gives her the name of a place where she can buy one made of fiberglass.

I call him the next day to find out if he's happy with his purchase, or if buyer's remorse has set in. He's still quite pleased. It turns out the horse is his "this is Marge" item. Poppe says that Marge knew he was the one who bid against her when she bought it 20 years ago. After that, any time he saw her, he'd say that he still wanted the horse. "And she'd say, 'Well, honey, you'll just have to wait until I'm gone.'"

Even I can imagine that.

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driving the economy

Local dealers accelerate communities

By Paula Andruss

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With nearly 2 million residents calling our region home, thousands of drivers hit local roads every day. The area boasts a remarkable number of franchise auto dealers who do more than put them in stylish drivers' seats. With roughly 150 new car dealers, CincinnatiUSA's auto industry benefits the area's economy in a multitude of ways. From employment and advertising to tax dollars and community contributions, CincinnatiUSA dealers have a great and far-reaching impact on how we live.

Setting the course

Like many cities, Cincinnati is very neighborhood-focused. You can see it in everything from local block parties to high-school football rivalries. One thing that sets our region apart, though, is how neighborhood focal points created an unusual market for car buyers.

"For many years, new car dealers and manufacturers wanted to have their line represented in each neighborhood, or as many neighborhoods as they could," says Ace

Ammann, executive vice-president of the Greater Cincinnati Automobile Dealers Association (GCADA). As a result, the market remains highly competitive.

Bob Reichert, president of the Kenwood Dealer Group, explains the market's impact on new car buyers. "When a city has more dealers than necessary, it creates a great buyers' market," he says. "You can really get a good deal on a car in Cincinnati." With competitive deals as incentives, area residents keep the auto sales industry in high gear, but drivers reap the benefits of those sales in other ways as well.

Fueling smart growth

One of the most tangible benefits of the high concentration of car dealers on the local economy is the number of jobs they create. According to Ammann, the association's 131 member new car dealers (who account for 95 percent of the dealers in CincinnatiUSA) employ about 6,000 people, and distribute a total payroll of approximately \$250 million. From sales and service to accounting and office support, each dealership employs an average of 48 people, though that number varies widely per organization.

And dealers' investment in their current and future employees goes beyond their basic salaries. For example, Bill DeLord, owner and president of Bill DeLord Autocenter in Lebanon, says his organization supports career advance-

ment programs for both salespeople and technicians.

"At any given point in time we have students in career centers," says DeLord, whose organization employs more than 50 people. "We support them with work and job opportunities while they're in school, and then provide them with jobs when they graduate."

Employment numbers also increase substantially when you consider the people whose livelihoods are indirectly tied to the auto industry. "We have a far-reaching number of vendors who make a substantial portion of their living from our operation," says Reichert, whose organization employs 725 people. "From automotive cleanup shops to software providers to forms providers and other supply people, there are a whole lot of vendors in here every day supplying us with the things we need to sell cars."

In fact, Amman says some estimates suggest that one out of five people in the state of Ohio earns their living in some way related to the new car business. "From manufacturing and selling to repairing and supplying, that's undeniably a lot of jobs," he says.

Leading the pack

Groups of dealers located near each other create a ripple effect, as is the case on Beechmont and Colerain avenues, as well as at the Kings Automall.

"A lot of satellite businesses spring up around the auto dealer areas," explains Reichert. "They usually desire that their location be in close proximity to the car dealer concentration, because that's where a high volume of people gravitate to take care of their car needs."

But new businesses in those growing areas don't always involve cars, says Terry Lee, owner and president of Terry Lee Chevrolet in the Kings Automall. The 20 franchises in the Automall sell 24,000 vehicles per year. "Kings Automall was a pioneer in the late 80s when they first came to this location," he explains. "There wasn't much here; the perception then was that it was kind of far out."

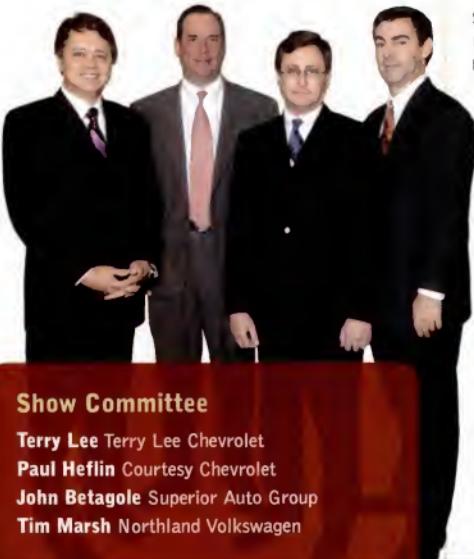
The vast supply of new cars has played a part in changing that. "We attract people from a wide area. Other businesses have realized that and now it's more in the heart of everything," Lee maintains. "I think it's one of the hottest retail locations in Cincinnati."

Shifting their focus

No matter their locations, dealers in our competitive market add health to the economy through major investments in advertising geared toward attracting customers to their lots. While Ammann says the GCADA does not track ad spending among its members, industry insiders estimate that nearly \$20 million per year is spent by dealers on local advertising in local newspapers alone.

"The dollars we spend on advertising always have to be there in order to generate business," says DeLord, who also spends his ad dollars in television and on the internet. "We spend anywhere from \$300 to \$500 dollars per vehicle sold."

Those advertising dollars also support a wide variety of community groups and organizations. "We advertise in quite a few of our local school districts, for whichever dealership is in that area," says John Betagole, vice-president of Superior Dealer Group/Mike Albert Leasing. "From athletic events to performance programs, each of our dealerships tries to participate quite a bit within our local schools."



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According to Lee, raising a dealership's profile in a variety of ways helps create a better sales environment for dealers and customers alike.

"We support the Bengals and we support the Reds, not to mention all those local softball leagues and soccer leagues," Lee says. "People don't respond well to the high-pressure sales pitches with the yelling and screaming anymore. Instead we have all types of signage and promotions at those events and games. Marketing is done by sponsorship rather than loud commercials."

Generating new possibilities

Of course, more successful advertising leads to more revenues, a portion of which goes right back into the region's economy. In addition to paying substantial property taxes, dealers generate income for our city, county and state municipalities through sales and other taxes.

And the sales taxes that dealers generate are significant, says Tim Marsh, president of Northland Motors. "Of every car we sell in Hamilton County, 6.5 percent of that purchase price ends up going to the state and the county," he explains. "If you buy a \$10 part, it's not that big a deal, but if you're talking about a \$30,000 to \$40,000 car, you're contributing quite a bit."

According to Ammann, local new car dealers sell more than 100,000 new cars every year, which translates into about \$3.5 billion in retail sales. As a result, they collect about \$120 million in sales tax annually.

Dealers also pay more than \$12 million in personal property taxes, some of which goes directly back into their communities. "A lot of what we pay really impacts infrastructure," says DeLord. "It helps with school funding and road improvements and other things that are always needed within communities."

Leading by example

Money and improvements generated by auto dealers energize neighborhoods through more than taxes, Ammann adds. "There is a tremendous amount of community interaction by our dealers," he says. "From

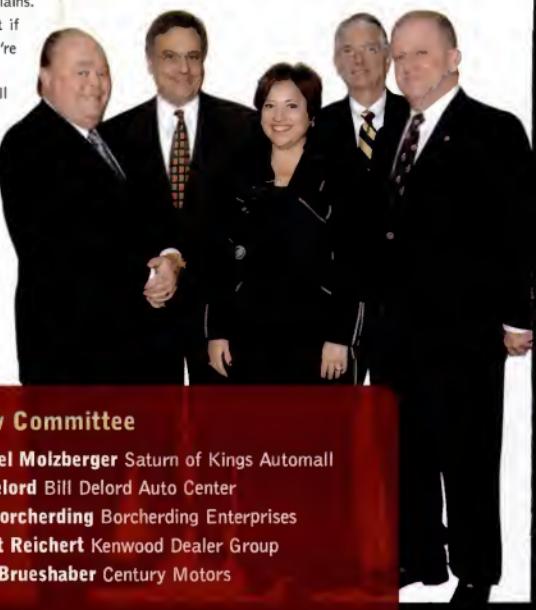
employee participation in various fundraisers to charity golf outings and donating items for raffles, a lot of them do charitable works."

DeLord says his employees donate thousands of hours and dollars to area groups, including the Lebanon Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and other church and community functions. "Every opportunity we have within our means to give back, we do," he says.

In addition to funding and assisting specific organizations, dealers also donate generously to residents in need. In addition to supporting United Way activities, Betagole says his group also supports the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the Free Store Foodbank, the March of Dimes and Cincinnati Shriners Hospital. They also help community members through programs such as child fingerprint identity programs and blood drives.

"As a group, we try to stay very involved," Betagole says. "It's not only helping others, it gives us a lot of satisfaction, too."

Reichert's Kenwood Dealer Group provides two DARE



Show Committee

Michael Molzberger Saturn of Kings Automall

Bill Delord Bill Delord Auto Center

Kim Borcherding Borcherding Enterprises

Robert Reichert Kenwood Dealer Group

Larry Brueshaber Century Motors

cars that the Mason and Deerfield Township police departments use when conducting drug prevention programs. "We help them provide the service to the schools, and in doing so, it defrays the cost for the community," Reichert says. "Otherwise, the taxpayers would have to bear that burden."

Some auto dealers even hold prominent positions within the groups they help. Kim Borcherding, who owns and operates Borcherding Pontiac, Buick and GMC, serves on the advisory board of the American Cancer Society and is a board member of the Southwest Ohio Make-a-Wish Foundation. Leading by example is one way she inspires her employees. "I think that your business should be a statement about your life as well," says Borcherding. "It's our way of giving back to the people who support us."

The dealers' umbrella group, the GCADA, also supports several local charities. Proceeds from the Dealers' Night reception of the 2006 Auto Expo will benefit Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Other GCADA efforts support the Arthritis Foundation. With 131 dealer members, the organization's impact reaches far beyond the region's highways and side streets.

"Each dealer has personal reasons for helping out the charities and causes they choose, and they assist those groups tirelessly," says Ammann. "Between their individual involvement and the collective works we do as a group, the benefits to the public are second to none." ●



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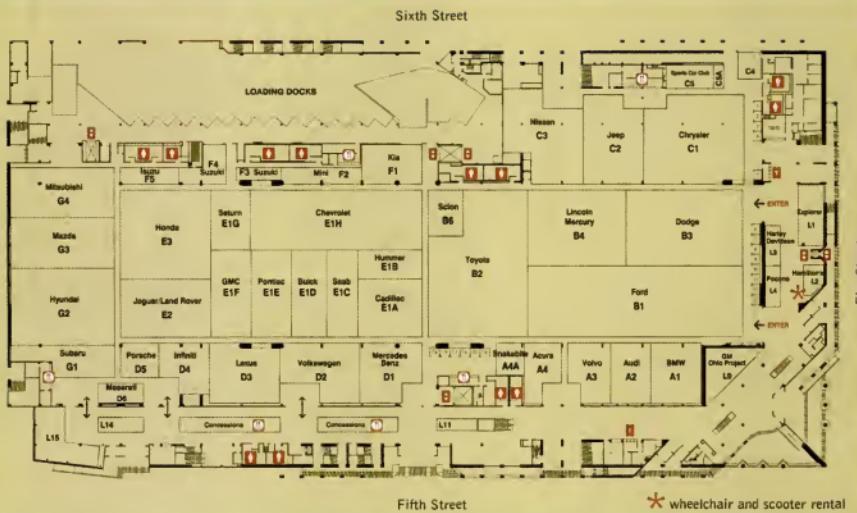
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513-761-9706

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Cincinnati, OH 45255
513-624-1100

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Cincinnati, OH 45255
513-752-6611

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513-388-3888

Beechmont Motors
8639 Beechmont Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45255
513-388-3700

Beechmont Toyota
8667 Beechmont Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45255
513-388-3800

Bill Delord Auto Center
760 Columbus Avenue
Lebanon, OH 45036
513-932-3000

Bob Pulte Chevrolet
909 Columbus Avenue
Lebanon, OH 45036
513-932-0303

Bob Williams Automotive
9400 Main Street
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513-771-8100

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Cincinnati, OH 45242
513-891-9400

Century Honda
9876 Montgomery Road
Cincinnati, OH 45242
513-791-9090

Century Volkswagen
10575 Loveland-Madeira Road
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Harrison, OH 45030
513-367-3857**Cronin Lincoln Mercury Jeep**3485 Commerce Avenue
Franklin, OH 45001
513-721-6507**Fairfield Ford**5221 Dixie Highway
Fairfield, OH 45014
513-829-0185**Cronin's Glenway Dodge**6475 Glenway Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45211
513-574-4000**Fairfield Lincoln Mercury VW**6195 Dixie Highway
Fairfield, OH 45014
513-874-3740**Falhaber Nissan**8680 Colerain Avenue
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513-385-1400**Fiehrer Motors**2531 Dixie Highway
Fairfield, OH 45014
513-863-8111**Floyd Duran Buick**2350 Ferguson Road
Cincinnati, OH 45238
513-922-2000**Glenway Chevrolet**3015 Glenhills Way
Cincinnati, OH 45238
513-251-5555**Henry Sieve Pontiac GMC**2300 Ferguson Road
Cincinnati, OH 45238
513-922-1400**Holman Motors**4387 Ellick Lane
Batavia, OH 45103
513-752-3123**Honda East**529 Ohio Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45255
513-258-6630**Jaguar of Cincinnati**9620 Montgomery Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249
513-984-5247**Jake Sweeney Auto Center**8755 Fields Ertle Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249
513-489-5253**Jake Sweeney Chevrolet**33 West Kemper Road
Cincinnati, OH 45246
513-782-2800**Jake Sweeney Chrysler Jeep**85 West Kemper Road
Cincinnati, OH 45246
513-782-1010**Jeff Wyler Alexandria**7926 Alexandria Pike
Alexandria, KY 41001
859-635-9200**Jeff Wyler Eastgate**1117 State Route 32
Batavia, OH 45103
513-752-3447**Jeff Wyler Ft. Thomas**100 Alexandria Pike
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075
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513-741-0090**Joseph Chevrolet**8733 Colerain Avenue
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BMW Z4 Coupe

● The all-new Z4 Coupe acts as a cool, metallic addition to the BMW line-up. The Coupe, inspired in part by its Z4 Roadster companion, not only meets driver demands, it pushes owners straight toward the future of sports cars.

Carefully crafted to blend shiny and matte surfaces, dark and light finishes, technology and coziness, the Z4 epitomizes the best of BMW's design. With BMW's Dynamic Traction Control, Dynamic Stability Control, Electrical Power Steering and a high-performance braking system, Z4 Coupe offers an exhilarating ride.

The Z4's 3.0-liter straight-six engine, a clear indicator of BMW's leadership in power technology, shows off the coupe's strength. The unique Z4 design features a sleek, sporty exterior that is matched by an equally superior interior. From the Nubuk leather-lined roof to the stiches on the seats, BMW designers have once again made every detail count. The cockpit of the car is tailor-made to the drivers' wants and needs, creating an unmistakable feel of comfort, style and BMW authenticity. ●

Dodge Nitro

● As the first-ever mid-size SUV in Dodge's repertoire, the Nitro drives on to the scene with power and style. This rugged entry embodies strong character, defined by its rectangular front, imposing hood, interior details and crisp lines.

The "Anodized Red" Nitro carries a theme of chrome, red and silver accents throughout. Complete with a trailer tow hitch, a silver license plate visor and chrome dual exhaust tail pipes, this Dodge performs many functions. The Nitro is also ready-made for the active driver, topped with a satin silver and black-trimmed roof rack and crossbars.

By Claire Navaro

The center console includes a DVD-based navigation radio and seven-inch fixed LED screen. The black leather interior, stitched in red, and the rugged-texture vinyl design of the cargo space make this mid-size easy to clean. When the rear hatch is opened, the cargo floor slides out for easy loading and unloading. Powered by a 3.7-liter SOHC V-6 engine, the Nitro is both powerful and fun to drive. ●

2006 Hyundai Azera

● Drive Your Way with Hyundai's all-new 2006 Azera, a striking blend of style, safety, performance and luxury. Designed to provide personal comfort and roominess, the Azera takes Hyundai signatures to the next level. Dual front automatic climate controls, an auto-dimming mirror with HomeLink, leather seats and an Air Quality System meld technology and dependability.

Enjoy advanced engineering technology such as a Traction Control System that acts as a driver's safety net. Designed to analyze various factors of speed, throttle position and steering input, an onboard microprocessor identifies and corrects over- or understeering and braking. The Azera also features active front head restraints to help prevent whiplash and eight airbags. Its HomeLink integrated transceiver, engine immobilizer and remote keyless entry system with alarm add to the Azera's security and safety.

The Azera's V6 engine performance is coupled with low, environmentally friendly emission levels. Powered by a 3.8-liter, all-aluminum engine, the 2006 Azera also boasts a five-speed automatic transmission that gives drivers the option of controlling the gears through the SHIFTRONIC manual control system. The 2006 Azera promises consumers a premium sedan with quality, affordability and security in tow. ●

Pontiac 2007 Solstice

● The 2007 Solstice can and should be described as Pontiac's high point. This hot roadster sped through the production process less than two years after it was created from scratch. The 2007 Solstice had its television debut on NBC's "The Apprentice"—the initial introduction boded well for the car's success. It took only 41 minutes to pre-sell the first 1,000 Solstices.

The Solstice provides a solid frame with advanced tech-



BMW Z4 Coupe



Dodge Nitro



Hyundai Azera



Pontiac Solstice



Toyota Yaris

nologies to reduce chassis flex and cowl shake. For thrill-seeking taller drivers, the Solstice features comfortable seats for taller drivers and passengers, a rare trait in a roadster. Its surprisingly roomy cabin space is complete with racing-inspired sport bucket seats, a rake-adjustable steering wheel and an easy-to-operate cloth convertible top, among many other features. Even the Solstice's bold color options will enhance the driving experience, with each of the seven hues inspired by personality traits: Aggressive (red), Cool (silver), Deep (blue), Envious (green), Mysterious (black), Pure (white) and Sly (gray).

Though adrenaline and speed may go hand-in-hand with the power supplied by a 2.4-liter Ecotec engine, safety is a GM priority. Most notable of the Solstice's features: OnStar dual-mode equipment, the advanced voice-recognition program that monitors cars and allows hands-free calling. ●

Toyota 2007 Yaris

● American roadways: look out! The United States is unleashing the Yaris, Toyota's most youthful car yet. Having been on the European market for six years, the Toyota production and design teams have set a strong precedent for their new American version. The Yaris was named the European Car of the Year in 2000, clearly making waves in European markets. For 2006, Toyota will offer the U.S.-specified 2007 Yaris in early spring.

The Yaris replaces Toyota's ECHO as the entry for sub-compact passenger cars. With a modern exterior complemented by a sleek interior, the Yaris focuses on refinement, sophistication and fun-to-drive performance.

Powered by a 1.5-liter four-cylinder engine, the Yaris will be especially economical. The strength of the engine, combined with the McPherson strut front and rear torsion beam suspension, gives Yaris an edge with great maneuverability.

The Yaris will provide driver and front passenger advanced airbags, seat-mounted side, front and rear curtain airbags, as well as an anti-lock braking system for safety. Offering an audio system equipped with MP3 capabilities and optional power windows, doors and locks, the Yaris makes an ideal choice for the youthful crowd. ●



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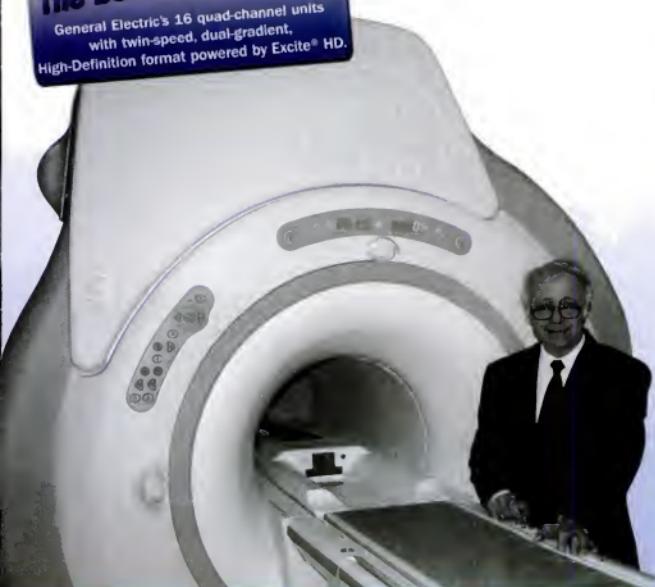
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WINTER SURVIVAL

continued from page 97

2:19 P.M.

Another Piven billboard! Congratulations Jeremy, you've just nosed out Mr. Lee for top honors.

3:30 P.M.

In my quest to stay warm, I've sacrificed social interaction. So by the time I pull up to the drive-through window at the main library downtown, I'm desperate for conversation. A woman who looks to be in her mid-20s, with auburn hair and glasses, greets me from the other side of the glass. I shove two overdue books into the collection box and watch as she looks up my information.

"How long you had this drive-through?" I ask, as though she owns the place. She shrugs her shoulders. "Longer than I been here," she says, not letting her eyes leave the screen.

Rough start. "Guess how long I've been outside today?" I blurt.

She looks down in my direction. "Guess what?" she asks.

"Outside," I say. "I'm trying to avoid the outdoors. Guess how long I've been outside."

"I don't know," she says, letting a forced smile stretch across her face. "Twenty minutes."

"Not even close," I say proudly. "Four minutes and 40 seconds." I hold up the stopwatch. Her forced smile is accompanied by a forced laugh. "That's pretty impressive, don't you think?"

"Very impressive," she says, adding that I owe \$1.5 in overdue fees.

There's a brief stretch of awkward silence as I dig through my wallet for a 20. "Really," I say to her as I hand over the money. "I'd like to see you do better."

"Maybe I'll try tomorrow," she says, sliding my change into the drop-off drawer.

3:04 P.M.

Totally and thoroughly NPR'd out. Famine. War. Politics. Scandal. Six and a half hours of this stuff and it makes you want to head straight for a telephone pole. Time for some satellite radio.

3:57 P.M.

I really need to exercise. I'm pretty sure my muscles have started to atrophy. I do some quick math and figure out that I've only expended five calories today. By now, you'd think somebody would've come up with a kind of workout regimen for people stuck

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Mike Pohl and son Chris
Dayton, Ohio



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WINTER SURVIVAL

in their vehicles. Car seat crunches or something. I mean, where's that Tae Bo guy? What's he doing these days? Couldn't he develop something? I take a quick glance toward the backseat and do some thinking: *If I just moved that phone book and my raincoat, I could probably do some push-ups. A little awkward perhaps, but at least it would get the blood pumping. I could just pull off to the side of the road or into a parking lot and....* On second thought, that might look a little strange.

4:08 P.M. :25 OUTSIDE THE CAR

McDonald's. Crescent Springs, Kentucky. You guessed it—another bathroom stop.

4:15 P.M.

Home Depot in Crescent Springs. It's my first rest stop of the day, and it's going to be a breeze. I only need glue for some cracked window glass—I know *exactly* where it's located—and parking spaces near the store are plentiful. I'm in and out with a total outside time of 40 seconds. Kid's stuff.

4:30 P.M.

Frankly, I need a challenge. Anyone can drive around and find a parking space close to the store. I need to take on something that truly tests the limits of my tact, negotiation prowess, and begging skills. Besides, I could actually use some streamers. So I call The Party Source in Bellevue. "Does the Party Source offer a personal shopping service?" I inquire. The friendly female voice on the other end of the line struggles to find a response. "Hold on," she finally says, and passes me to someone further up the management chain.

That's when Maxine comes into my life. She's the assistant manager, a no-nonsense woman who speaks with the punctilious tone of a school teacher, as though she's ready to scold me. "What is it you need?" she demands. I give her my spiel. I start with a half-truth about not being able to get out of the car and then ask—with the best faux naïveté I can muster—if the store might bring my items out to me if I pre-order them over the phone.

"We can't do this," she says, sounding as though she's just milliseconds from hanging up.

"Would you make an exception?" I ask, before meekly adding, "it's for science."

"For science?!" she shouts. We've reached the precipice of the negotiation. It's



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either going to break in my favor or blow up in my face. My success rests in Maxine's hands. She pauses. "You know, you sound like a crazy person," she chuckles. "What do you need?"

I give her the list, which I make up on the fly: red streamers, Scotch tape, and chocolate. I'm not certain what kind of chocolate I need, so I tell Maxine to pick something out for me. Then I give her my credit card information, carefully spelling out my last name. "At least that's what it says on this card I lifted from an old man in Home Depot," I say.

Maxine laughs. I'm golden! "Just remember to bring some LD," she says. "And give a call when you get here. I'm not going to spend all day out in the cold for you."

5:30 P.M.

I'm more than 30 minutes late to see Maxine. Traffic's been terrible and my navigation skills have been worse. See, I forgot to bring a map, and even though I've lived in the region for more than a year now, I'm still never really sure where I'm going. But I finally find The Party Source, pull into a parking space near the front door, and give Maxine a call.

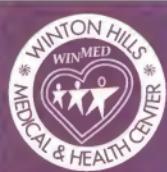
A few minutes later she comes walking out, holding a white plastic bag in her right hand. Her boss, Jon, is trailing close behind. Given the way he warily stares at me and keeps his distance, I'm pretty sure Jon is there to make sure I'm not going to abduct his employee.

"I got your chocolate," Maxine says, producing a large bar of Lindt milk chocolate from the bag. "Extra fine." I collect the rest of the items, sign the credit card slip, and then watch as Maxine and Jon turn to leave.

"I'm not crazy!" I shout as they walk away. Maxine looks back and smiles, but I'm not sure she believes me.

6 P.M.

The whole Maxine experience has left me feeling a little arrogant. If I can get management at one store to shop for me, who's to say I can't get a fellow customer to do the same? That's why I now find myself at the Kroger in Covington. I need milk, but I'm not going to get out of my car to get it. The place is teeming with customers and a parking space near the store can't be found. Even worse, the population of "potential shoppers" appears low. It's a faster crowd,



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I pull into the loading zone just to the right of the storefront and survey the lot from my front seat. Five minutes go by. Then I spot Mike. He's short, with a medium build, and moves quickly. His wife is walking beside him. They're about 20 feet away when I make my move. "Excuse me," I yell out. "Can you help me?"

There's no acknowledgment at first. But just as I reach for my megaphone (yes, I said megaphone—it's perfect for this situation), Mike suddenly turns toward me. I give a little "howdy neighbor" wave and he comes over. His wife looks pretty skeptical and stays put.

"I'm sorry," I say, sounding more like a used car salesman than a person in need. "I can't get out of my car and I was wondering if you could pick me up some milk." Again, a half-truth. He studies my face for a few seconds. I push three crumpled ones in his direction. I expected resistance. Having the money ready helps; the less time there is to consider the offer, the better.

"You want a gallon or a quart?" he finally says.

"A quart is fine," I respond enthusiastically. Just then his wife says something. Oh no, I think, she can see right through me. *Shut up, lady. Don't blow this for me!* Mike turns and faces her. "What?" he says.

"Ask him if he wants one percent or two percent," she says.

"One percent," I say. Mike takes the money and 10 minutes later bounds out of the store with a quart of milk in his right hand.

"It was only a dollar," he says, handing me two bucks. I look at the receipt. He even used his Kroger Plus Card to save me 99 cents. He didn't have to do that. I thank him and we part ways.

6:20 P.M.

If Kroger is a high point, Liquor Kwik is a low point. The shopping was easy enough—the wait time minimal, the service friendly—but I'm starving, tired, and road weary. I don't even make it out of the lot. Instead, I sit alone in the dark, a cold (unopened) six-pack of Sam Adams on my lap, eating handfuls of Cheetos as though I might never see food again, listening to Bob Seger's "Turn the Page"—which at this moment, in this condition, sounds *really* good. What the hell has happened to me?

6:45 P.M.

After picking up a bag of ice at the White Castle drive-through in Covington for an end-of-the-evening cocktail that I'm sure I'll need, I head home to pick up my wife, Grace. The plan: dinner and a movie, in the car. The front seat is a mess, though—papers, trash, money, and pens are scattered all over. My stab at organization fell apart by about, oh, 10 o'clock this morning. As a result, my wife is forced to sit in the back as we make our way to the gas station. I pull up next to the pump, produce my credit card, and reach back to hand it to her.

"I think \$10 should do it for now," I say. She holds the card out for a second, contemplating. I'm sure, the two choices she feels she has at this moment: filling that tank or filing for divorce. She opens the door and walks to the pump. I know what I've probably done to the marriage, but I'm in the home stretch now. I haven't been outside since Home Depot; in fact, I've spent just 5 minutes and 33 seconds outside all day. If I play my cards right, I can stay inside the rest of the evening.

"It's about making history," I tell her. She nods her head up-and-down, not so much in agreement but to get me to shut up. History, it seems, may be an expensive endeavor.

7:45 P.M.

Experimentation is about taking risks, blowing up what constitutes reality, living outside the box—or in this case, in your car. That's why, when I call ahead to the "Car-side To Go" service at the Applebee's in Hamilton to place my order, my directions are clear and concise: "Give me the messiest thing you have on the menu."

"That would be the ribs," says the waitress.

"I'll take 'em!" I say without blinking.

8:15 P.M.

Some advice: If you find yourself at, say, the Holiday Auto Theatre in Hamilton, on a lonely winter night, eating ribs in your car when you only have two napkins—that's not a good idea. Not for your dignity, your clothes, or maintaining any level of respect from your wife. I know this now.

11:03 P.M.

After trying to stay warm for more than two hours at the drive-in as we watched *Jarhead* (outside temp: 23 degrees), I'm back in front of my home. I've gone where no man



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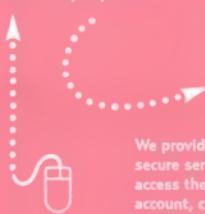
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has gone before, without having gone anywhere, really. It's been a good seven hours since I even got out of my car, a stretch of time that's included seven errands, a movie, and dinner with my wife. Of course, cleaning out the trash and hauling in my books and papers adds 1 minute and 52 seconds to my outside exposure, bringing the grand total open-air time to 7 minutes 25 seconds. A success? Most definitely. It feels good to stretch my legs and be out of the car. But damn, it's cold.

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Family Matters

The Kagy clan's ambitions for One are waylaid by second-rate service.

Why a dining experience works well is often more complicated to analyze than why one doesn't. When all components—great food, atmosphere, and service—are woven brilliantly together, the threads of illusion are difficult to detect. When things go wrong, it is usually easy to demystify, and often glaringly obvious. Great food, or even good food, is the most important ingredient of dining out. Atmosphere is another. But I would offer that in the restaurant business, longevity relies primarily on the human element. Every good dining experience depends on the delicate balance between customers and staff. It's the people behind the product who make it shine, with quality service being vital to the reputation of any dining establishment.

At the recently opened One Restaurant and Lounge, the Kagy family has pooled passion, knowledge, and commitment to bring the city of Mason a chef-driven restaurant in an area saturated with chains. Fully arrayed, the Kagys' combined training, ambition, and talent is impressive. Executive chef and proprietor Sean Kagy has done a tour of high-profile restaurants, including Maisonet (where he served as a roundsman—a position that requires proficiency in all kitchen stations—under Jean-Robert de Cavel) and The Palace, where he was executive chef from 1996 to 2000. His brother Seth, proprietor and general manager at One, graduated from Penn State University with a degree in hotel/restaurant management and has worked at The Ritz-Carlton Chicago. Finally, Sean's wife Jennifer, who does double duty as director of business development and pastry chef, left the banking industry for the call of the kitchen, attending the Midwest Culinary Institute and working at both The Palace and Maisonet, where she met Sean. How all of this experience translates to owning and running a restaurant is the challenge and the reward. A high-end restaurant—even one fueled by this much ambition—needs the support of the surrounding community while consistently attracting diners from beyond to remain solvent. One Restaurant and Lounge certainly has potential to become a destination dining spot, but it will require some fine-tuning to elevate and hold itself to that level.

Located in a distinct and historic Art Deco building on West Main Street in downtown Mason, with a chic interior designed by Donald Beck of Beck Architects (who also designed Boca and Dewey's Pizza), One does not lack for atmosphere. Chairs in the Red Room are woven from cranberry red material typically used for seat belts. Track lighting uplights walls of vanilla and oak-stained ebony. Plush, red, stylized chairs, Schott stemware, and live jazz on the weekends lend downtown cool to the lounge. Billowy art glass lighting is suspended over the long banquette that divides the main dining room—a room so open, beige, and cold it feels a bit like a school cafeteria.

Neither does One lack for good food. Sean Kagy is a competent and, at times, inspired chef who has found his niche in the school of "redefined American" cuisine, offering an uncomplicated menu of familiar fare. Crab cakes are perfectly crabby, not too dry,

BY DONNA COVRETT

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RANCH DRESSING
Niman Ranch pork chop with sweet potatoes, fruit chutney, calvados cream, and homemade sauerkraut (apposite); a long banquette breaks up the space in One's large dining room (above).



One Restaurant & Lounge

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SALAD DAZE

Maine lobster, crab, and rock shrimp join forces with fingerling potatoes, French green beans, avocado, frisée, and a truffle vinaigrette.

and served with ginger and red wine braised cabbage with Dijon cream. Roasted red pepper soup with homemade cracker and tomato relish is straightforward and comforting on a cold night. A large pillow of butternut squash ravioli with prosciutto di parma is made rich with brown butter sauce. A Napoleon of Maine lobster, crab, and rock shrimp with thin potato crisp layers and snappy haricots verts is the most interesting of the appetizers, revealing delicate, subtle flavors.

Entrées are divided simply into land and sea with about a half-dozen choices in each. Again, Kagy takes a straightforward approach with small delights here and there that result in well-prepared, sizable main courses. I highlight sizable because many of these are simply too much food, requiring oversized plates. At each visit, we spent time trying to rearrange tableware to accommodate plates of various geometric designs so we could eat comfortably without knocking anything over.

Most entrées are very good, though few are of the remarkable category that often defines destination dining. A 16-ounce bone-in New York strip steak served with potatoes, grilled vegetables, and a tower of thin onion rings satisfies—but doesn't wow—my carnivorous companion. A confit of garlic, spinach, nicoise olives, and tomato broth is a hearty and tasty Mediterranean treatment for the baked halibut, a seasonal feature, but doesn't excite anyone at the table. More memorable is a feature entrée of swordfish with creamy polenta and wild mushrooms served in a sauce of smoked bacon, shallots, and amaretto. The clear favorite is the Niman Ranch pork chop with sweet potato puree, fruit chutney, calvados cream, and

outstanding homemade sauerkraut that would please my oma.

While the food at One has hits and misses, it is apparent that Chef Kagy has the passion and talent to carry a restaurant. What One lacks is a well-trained staff to support the product and its high style. This is the loose thread that could unravel the magic. On our first visit, frustrated with an extremely wordy wine list printed in impossibly tiny type, we asked our server for help in recommending wines by the glass. He directed us back to the wine menu, stating that he really "didn't know much" about wine. We asked him if the restaurant had a wine steward or wine captain, instinctively avoiding the word "sommelier." Confessing he had no idea what we were talking about, he went to get general manager Seth Kagy. We asked Seth to choose a wine-by-the-glass for each of our three courses. Retrieving a wine list, he suggested that we order "white with fish and red with meat," then proceeded to read straight from the list.

Considering the detailed and passionate mission statement about food and wine pairing at the front of the wine menu, we were surprised and disappointed by this lack of care or effort, especially on a night when only four other tables in the dining room were occupied. Instead of three, two courses of wine were served (the salad course was forgotten or went unnoticed for an obvious loss of revenue) at least five minutes after our food was set down. The server on our last visit was the only one able to make wine recommendations and serve them properly—that is, before the food. Unfortunately for us, most servers knew little about Chef Kagy's food other than to recite the biggest sellers. One responded to my companion's query about the location of Niman Ranch by telling us it was "somewhere in northern Ohio." (A favorite of chefs for its high quality and full flavor, Niman Ranch meats is a 30-year-old business originating in Marin County, California.)

For such a sharp environment, wait staff are dressed sloppily, with shirttails perpetually half-tucked like disheveled teenagers. Overall, the service lacked the knowledge and choreography expected when paying a premium price for dining. And in today's competitive restaurant environment, good food is not enough.



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Sweet Seduction

How the lure of chocolate melted my resistance.

Chocolate's primal appeal is not merely a preference for most of us; it is a disposition of the soul. A former boyfriend of mine who wore candy-colored shirts and smelled of vanilla once confessed that he loved me as much as a good Belgian semisweet chocolate but could never love me more than a Venezuelan bittersweet chocolate with a minimum chocolate liquor content of 71 percent.

I completely understood his freak. I introduced him to grilled chocolate sandwiches; he filled the claw-foot bathtub with hot chocolate baths—marshmallows included. We spent a delicious six months together eating mail-ordered chocolate and kissing. Our relationship ended when he discovered me in bed with milk chocolate. He was mortified by my betrayal. I made a tearful appeal and a half-hearted promise of dark chocolate monogamy, but honestly, I was young and needed to move freely among all chocolates. I even admitted to having a fling with white chocolate. What can I say? I was a pastry chef and everybody was doing it.

My journey to the dark side was stimulated by my mother, a serious addict who hid boxes of chocolates in various cupboards of unattainable (or so she thought) heights. "Food of the gods," she would whisper as I watched her unwrap the red and gold box of Cello chocolate-covered cherries and eat them—slowly, one at a time—in euphoric reverie. By the age of 4, I was quite used to the flurry of activity and subsequent crash produced by her afternoon chocolate buzz. While she napped off her sugar high, I would feed the leftover chocolates to my wooden rocking horse, Lightning, by pulling off the grip handles and dropping them down the hole to his stomach (or so I thought). I was certain the "food of the gods" affected his speed and prowess. For the next five years, fueled by my mother's stash of Fannie Farmer chocolate caramels, Brach's chocolate-covered malted milk balls, handmade European chocolates, and Goo Goo Clusters, I mounted Lightning's yellow saddle and rocked myself into a meditative state. When he was finally retired to the attic, Lightning was 20 pounds heavier with a "stomach" full of petrified chocolate.

My lust for chocolate continued with after-school visits to Carl's Fish Store (a bygone shop in Madeira filled with aquariums and bins of penny candy) and the choco-faithful holidays of Easter and Halloween—the one time when kids are actually encouraged to take candy from strangers. On Halloween night I calculated that a costume change and two trips through the neighborhood would double the chocolate bounty, which I wasted no time in quarantining, cataloging, and guarding from my siblings. One summer I petitioned my parents to take our family vacation in Hershey, Pennsylvania, where I was sure the air itself smelled of chocolate. I maniacally fantasized about a large vault of chocolate candy that I would be invited to dive into and roll around in like a millionaire rolls around in his money. They sent me to a wilderness camp instead, concerned that I had become unhinged.

Death By Chocolate. Chocolate Decadence. Better-Than-Sex Chocolate Cake. Even the names of chocolate desserts reflect the power this complex food has over our palates and imaginations. Chocolate, after all, is one of life's most alluring, luxurious pleasures. Delectable and intoxicating, at times absolutely sublime, the intricate flavor of chocolate still inspires my complete devotion. Whenever that sinful brown nectar oozes over my palate, life is good. Realized. Yes, rich. ☺

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RESTAURANTS

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key No checks unless specified.

AE American Express, DC Diners Club

DS Discover, MC MasterCard, V Visa

MCC Major credit cards: AE, MC, V

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★ Critic's Pick

african

THE EAST AFRICAN RESTAURANT, 6025 Montgomery Rd., Pleasant Ridge, (513) 351-7686. Authentic Ethiopian and Eritrean cuisine in family setting. Features beef, lamb and chicken stews on Injera bread. Vegetarian items available, \$7.50-\$9.50. Lunch & dinner Tues-Sat. Cash or check. MCC, D.S.

TERANGA, 8438 Vine St., Hartwell, (513) 821-1300. West African meat and rice dishes, fish, chicken and beef paired with intriguing, exotic stews and sauces, \$6-\$10. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, check.

american

ARTHUR'S, 3516 Edwards Rd., Hyde Park, (513) 871-5543. Neighborhood cafe, antique bar, garden. Burgers, salads, soups and deli sandwiches. \$5-\$11. Children's menu. Full bar. Brunch Sun, lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, D.S.

BEHLE STREET CAFE, 50 E. Rivercenter Blvd., Covington, (859) 291-4100. Pastas, ribs, pork chops and salads, \$7.50-\$28. Children's menu. Banquet facilities. Full bar. Reservations recommended. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, D.S.

BRINKLEY'S, 4747 Montgomery Rd., Norwood, (513) 351-7400. Prime rib, triple nut-crusted chicken breast and their signature Chef's Garden salad bar, \$6-\$23. Wine list. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner seven days. MCC, D.S.

CHEESEBURGER IN PARADISE, 812 Eastgate North Dr., Eastgate, (513) 753-4593. Jimmy Buffet

fanfare. Mini-cheesburgers, chocolate nachos, shrimp fritters and a Tiki Bar stocked with beach-cocktail concoctions. Tiki Bar features a late-night menu and live music nightly. Lunch Sat & Sun, dinner Mon-Sun. MCC, D.S.

COCO'S, 322 Greenup St., Covington, (859) 491-1369. In historic Riverside district. Seafood, pastas, beef and poultry, \$16-\$37. Full bar. Live music Mon-Sat. Dinner seven days. MCC.

DAVEED'S AT 954, 954 Hatch St., Mt. Adams, (513) 721-2665. American cuisine with eclectic flair including duck breast and pan-seared NYS Foie Gras, \$22-\$29. Wine carefully paired with food. Private Dining & Catering available. Outdoor dining. Dressy casual. Reservations suggested. Dinner Tues-Sat. MCC, D.S., DC.

DESHA'S AMERICAN TAVERN, 11320 Montgomery Rd., Symmes Twp., (513) 247-9933. Residential/ambience. Features roasted pork tenderloin, chicken and beef and plenty of comfort foods, \$7-\$23. Wine list, imported draft beer and plenty of single barrel bourbon. Children's menu. Lunch & dinner seven days, Sun brunch. MCC, D.S., DC.

EMBERS, 8170 Montgomery Rd., Madeira, (513) 984-8090. The folks behind Kenwood's Trio add a fresh sushi bar to a menu of steaks, chops and seafood in this, their second area eatery. Filet Oscar, rotisserie chicken, sea bass, \$19-\$36. Reservations. Dinner seven days. MCC, DC, D.S.

GEOFFREY'S, 5880 Cheviot Rd., White Oak, (513) 385-9999. American cuisine. Smothered chicken, fresh seafood, Santa Fe sirloin, burgers and salads. \$7-\$14. Children's menu. Full bar. Reservations for large parties. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, D.S.

THE GOLDEN LAMB, 27 S. Broadway, Lebanon, (513) 932-5065. Housed in Ohio's oldest inn. Roast duckling, lamb, fresh seafood, steaks and prime rib, \$15-\$26. Children's menu. Full bar. Breakfast Sat & Sun, lunch Mon-Sat, dinner seven days. MCC, D.S.

GREYHOUND TAVERN, 2500 Dixie Hwy., Ft. Mitchell, (859) 331-3767. Popular neighborhood spot features Southern-fried chicken, chops, prime beef and seafood. \$5.50-\$21. Children's menu. Outside dining. Full bar. Reservations suggested. Lunch & dinner seven days, Sun brunch. MCC.

HYDE PARK TAVERN AND GRILLE, 3384 Erie Ave., Hyde Park, (513) 321-6900. Serving thin-crust New York-style pizzas and interesting appetizer selections featuring crab cakes Entrées \$13-\$26. Full bar. Carryout. Reservations for large parties. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, D.S.

IZZY'S, 300 Madison Ave., Covington, (859) 292-0065; 610 Main St., downtown, (513) 241-6246; 800 Elm St., downtown, (513) 721-4241; 1198 Smiley Ave., Forest Park, (513) 825-3888; 5098B Glencrossing Way, Western Hills, (513) 347-9699; 7625 Beechmont Ave., Anderson, (513) 231-5550; 8179 Princeton-Glendale Rd., West Chester, (513) 942-7800; 7625 Beechmont Ave., Anderson, (513) 231-5550. A downtown institution famous for its corned beef. Plus soups, overstuffed sandwiches, including meatloaf, beef tongue and peppered beef, half or whole. Plus light and healthy items. From \$2.25. All-you-can-eat salad Mon-Fri (Main location only). Multiple locations. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat. MCC, D.S.

son, (513) 231-5550. A downtown institution famous for its corned beef. Plus soups, overstuffed sandwiches, including meatloaf, beef tongue and peppered beef, half or whole. Plus light and healthy items. From \$2.25. All-you-can-eat salad Mon-Fri (Main location only). Multiple locations. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat. MCC, D.S.

NATIONAL EXEMPLAR, in the Mariemont Inn, 6880 Wooster Pk., Mariemont, (513) 271-2103. Great breakfasts: oversized omelettes and pancakes. Steaks, fresh seafood and pastas for dinner. \$8-\$27. Children's menu. Two full bars. Reservations accepted for dinner. Breakfast, lunch & dinner seven days. MCC.

THE ORIGINAL PANCAKE HOUSE, 9977 Montgomery Rd., Montgomery, (513) 745-0555; 9403 Civic Centre Blvd., West Chester, (513) 759-4300. Full listing appears under Montgomery. \$4-\$58. Children's menu. Breakfast seven days, lunch Mon-Fri. MCC, DC, D.S.

PALOMINO RESTAURANT, ROTISSERIA & BAR, Fountain Place, 505 Vine St., downtown, (513) 381-1300. Casually upscale setting, with a view of Fountain Square. Regional American cuisine inspired by rustic European, also oven-roasted and white-oak grilled prawns, salmon and certified Angus beef. Lunch from \$9-\$24 dinner \$10-\$40. Children's menu. Full bar. Wine list. Reservations recommended. Lunch Mon-Sat, dinner seven days, Sat & Sun brunch. MCC, DC, D.S.

THE POLO GRILLE, 5035 Deerfield Rd., Mason, (513) 701-7656. Offers electric American fare including seven specialty pizzas. Choose your wine from a list described in polo terms, from "first chukker" (lighter) to "mallet smashing" (bolder). Full bar, wine list, martini flights, carryout. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, D.S.

RED STAR TAVERN, 5045 Deerfield Blvd., Mason, (513) 398-0070. Contemporary American-style dining. Burgers, salads, seafood, and Tavern favorites like jambalaya pasta. \$6.95-\$23.95. Wine list, Full bar, carryout. Outdoor patio & bar. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DC, D.S.

THE RESTAURANTS AT PALM COURT, at Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, 35 W. Fifth St., downtown, (513) 421-9100. Featuring American fare in a casual setting. The Bar at Palm Court features a full bar with an extensive wine list. Valet parking. Piano music Fri & Sat, jazz trio Fri & Sat. Reservations suggested. Breakfast Mon-Sat, lunch Mon-Sat, dinner seven days, Sun brunch. MCC.

STURKEY'S, 400 Wyoming Ave., Wyoming, (513) 821-9200. Contemporary upscale restaurant features grilled salmon with leek and watercress, and Bailey's cheese cake voted best dessert in nation by USA Today, \$7-\$32. Children's menu. Full bar, offering catering. Dinner Tues-Sat. MCC, DC, D.S.

SYMPHONY HOTEL, 210 W. 14th St., Over-the-Rhine, (513) 721-3353. Housed in the 1871



weeknight

Russia With Love

The austere dining room has all the charm of an Aeroflot lounge, but the food makes a trip to **BALTIC** in Blue Ash worthwhile. Start with the caviar crepes, thin delicately spongy pancakes served with a dish of shiny orange salmon eggs. The potato dumplings—creamy potato puree enveloped in a half-moon of pasta—are surprisingly light and come with a hearty mushroom ragout. The chachokbili, a Georgian dish consisting of bone-in chicken pieces bathed in a spicy, dill-spiked sauce and served with a mound of steaming white rice, seemed to be as much Bombay as Bishkek. And don't miss the borscht (above). Baltic's take on this classic Ukrainian soup is a hot version thick with shredded beets, carrots, and hunks of potato. All that's missing is vodka. Never fear: Baltic is BYOB. *Na zdorovye!* • **ALYSSA BIVANDI**

FYI Baltic Restaurant, 4924 Hunt Rd., Blue Ash, (513) 793-1493. Prices \$3-\$20. Open Tues.-Thurs. 11 am-9 pm, Fri 11 am-10 pm, Sat & Sun 4-10 pm.

Ehrgott mansion. Offers five-course dinners for Symphony, Opera and Pops performances \$38, seatings from 5:45. MCC.

THROUGH THE GARDEN, 10738 Kenwood Rd., Blue Ash, (513) 791-2199. Pasta, grilled seafood, burgers, stir-fries, New York strip, \$5-\$20. Full bar. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Tues-Sat. MCC.

TRIO, 7565 Kenwood Rd., Kenwood, (513) 984-1905. Serves California-style pizzas and pastas, salads, sandwiches, and entrees. \$9-\$23. Children's menu. More than 200 wines. Full bar. Reservations suggested. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

THE VINEYARD CAFE & WINE ROOM, 2653 Erie Ave., Hyde Park, (513) 871-6167. Elliot Jablonsky's cafe features light, creative American dishes with Mediterranean and Asian accents. \$8-\$25. Full bar and wine room features extensive wine list. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC.

VINOKLET WINERY, 11069 Colerain Ave., Colerain Twp., (513) 385-3039. Dine overlooking the vineyard. Dinner a la carte Tues-Thurs, grill-out (\$28-\$30). Reservations recommended. MCC, ★.

WASHINGTON PLATFORM SALOON AND RESTAURANT, 1000 Elm St., downtown, (513) 421-0110. All-American food in turn-of-the-century saloon. Potato leek soup, apricot ginger chops, pasta and apple nut chicken. \$12-\$21. Liquor & wine. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat, dinner Sun for Symphony shows. MCC, DC, DS.

WATSON BROS. BISTRO & BREWERY, 4785 Lake Forest Dr., Blue Ash, (513) 563-9797. Brew pub offers fresh catch daily, steaks, pastas. \$8-\$25. Children's menu. Large outdoor dining area. Full bar features handcrafted ales. Lunch & dinner seven days, Sun a la carte brunch. MCC.

WILD MIKE'S, 4498 Harrison Ave., Bridgetown, (513) 598-1616; 5043 Delhi Pike., Delhi, (513) 451-9464; 7587 Bridgetown Rd., Bridgetown, (513) 467-9464. Hot chicken wings, burgers, salads, grilled chicken and more at this west side favorite. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

YORK STREET INTERNATIONAL CAFE, 738 York St., Newport, (859) 261-9675. Owners Terry & Betsy Cunningham serve steaks, seafood, ethnic & vegetarian specialties. \$9-\$25. Large garden patio. Live music Thurs-Sun. Comedy Wed. Full bar. Lunch Tues-Sat, dinner Tues-Sun. MCC, DS, DC.

ZEOB'S BISTRO, in the Cincinnati Marriott Rivercenter, 10 W. Rivercenter Blvd., Covington, (859) 392-3750. Overlooks the river, features regional American cuisine, including New York strip, duck, three kinds of fish. Dinner \$14-\$39. Full bar. Breakfast, lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

barbecue

BBQ REVUE, 4725 Madison Rd., Madisonville, (513) 871-3500. Authentic atmosphere makes take out a shame in this neighborhood staple. Smoked ribs and whole chickens, pork loin and brisket. \$4-\$16. Full bar. Lunch & dinner Tues-Sun. MCC, DS.

BOSTON BUTZ PIT BBQ, 3754 Hamilton Cleves Rd., Ross, (513) 738-3111. Authentic Memphis-style pulled pork pit barbecue, hickory-smoked baby back ribs, chicken, and beef brisket. Smoked turkeys and salsas. Smoked glazed hams, plus a variety of homemade sides \$4.50-\$19. Reservations for six or more. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

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FAMOUS DAVE'S BBQ, 4931 Houston Rd., Florence, (859) 647-7788. American BBQ joint; 12183 Springfield Pk., Springdale, (513) 671-7427. American BBQ joint. \$10-\$14. Full bar. Outdoor dining and private party room at Springdale location. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

GOODIES BARBECUE RESTAURANT, 5841 Hamilton Ave., College Hill, (513) 542-4663. Finger-lickin' ribs served with collard greens, potato salad and cole slaw. Plus chicken wings and sandwiches. \$2-\$20. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat. MCC, DS.

PIT TO PLATE, 1527 Compton Rd., Mt. Healthy, (513) 931-9100. Authentic Texas hickory-smoked barbecue. Beef brisket, ribs, fish and chicken. Traditional sides and homemade desserts. \$4.95-\$18.95. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC.

WALT'S HITCHING POST, 3300 Madison Pike, Ft. Wright, (859) 331-0434. Classic barbecue, smoked ribs, fried chicken and salmon. \$11-\$22. Dinner seven days until 12am. MCC.

cajun/caribbean

ALLYN'S CAFE, 3538 Columbia Pkwy., Columbia-Tusculum, (513) 871-5779. Fun, funky. Features Cajun, Mexican, seafood and steaks. \$5-\$19. Shop with more than 25 wines & 120 beers. Live music four nights. Bar till midnight, Sunday till 2. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

BAHAMA BREEZE, 325 N. Commerce Way, Springdale, (513) 671-1488. Caribbean-themed spot offers entrées such as jerk chicken pasta, seared fresh ahi tuna, wood-grilled pork chops. \$11-\$20. Children's menu. Full bar. Live music Thurs-Sat. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

COPELAND'S OF NEW ORLEANS, 5150 Merton Dr. (at Mason-Mont. Rd.), Deerfield Twp., (513) 336-0043. New Orleans-style dishes, including prime steaks, fresh and fried seafood, chicken, pastas, salads and sandwiches. \$7-\$27. Children's menu. Full bar. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner seven days, Sun brunch. MCC, DS, DC.

DEE FELICE CAFE, 529 Main St., Covington, (859) 261-2365. New Orleans cajun cuisine as well as steaks, pastas, seafood. \$15-\$37. Live music Wed-Sun. Full bar. Reservations suggested. Dinner seven days, Sun brunch. MCC, DS, DC.

KNOTTY PINE ON THE BAYOU, 16720 Licking Pike, Cold Spring, (859) 781-2200. Specializes in Cajun foods, such as blackened chicken, halibut and steaks, frog legs, oysters, shrimp and lobster. \$10-\$22. Children's menu. Full bar. Reservations suggested. Dinner Tues-Sun. MC, V.

REDFISH, 700 Race St., downtown, (513) 929-4700. Cajun menu includes Louisiana-style jambalaya, blackened red fish. Dinner \$8-\$20. Children's menu. Full bar, live band Fri & Sat. Reservations suggested. Lunch Mon-Sat, dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

celtic

THE CLADDAGH IRISH PUB, One Levee Way, Newport, (859) 581-8888, Fountain Place, 505 Vine St., Mason, (513) 770-0999. Traditional Irish fare including fish and chips, shepherd's pie and Guinness Irish stew. \$7-\$24. Patio dining with a great view of Cincinnati and the Ohio River in New-

port. Two full bars. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

THE DUBLINER, 6111 Montgomery Rd., Pleasant Ridge, (513) 531-6111. Irish pub offers steak, fresh seafood and Irish dishes, \$7-\$14. Children's menu. Live music Thurs-Sat. Full bar, with 16 beers on tap. Lunch & dinner Tues-Sat. MCC, DS.

JACK QUINN'S RESTAURANT & IRISH PUB, 112 E. Fourth St., Covington, (859) 491-6699. Seriously Irish: Guinness beef boxtty, shepherd's pie. \$7-\$22. Three floors with three full bars. Live music weekends. Lunch & dinner Tues-Sat. MCC.

NICHOLSON'S TAVERN & PUB, 625 Walnut St., downtown, (513) 564-9111. Scottish-themed restaurant offers Shepherd's pie, hickory-smoked haddock, rotisserie-roasted chicken, Atlantic salmon with kedgeree risotto. \$4.95-\$32.95. Children's menu. Outdoor dining. Plenty of beers and single-malt scotches. Full bar. Lunch Mon-Sat, dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

chinese

CHINA GOURMET, 3340 Erie Ave., Hyde Park, (513) 871-6612. Award-winning Cantonese and Szechuan specialties in contemporary decor. Trout in black & garlic sauce, Szechuan string beans and hot/sour soup. \$6-\$28. Full bar. Reservations suggested. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat. MCC, DS, DC. ★

DOODLES, 3443 Edwards Rd., Hyde Park, (513) 871-7388. Oodles of noodles and dumplings, including leek potstickers, seafood noodle bowl, noodles tossed with shrimp and scallop pancakes. \$5-\$16. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat. MCC.

GRAND ORIENTAL, 4800 Fields Ertel Rd., Deerfield Twp., (513) 677-3388. Popular with families. Serves Cantonese, Hunan and Szechuan. \$7.75-\$18.50. Children's menu. Full bar. Dinn sun Sat & Sun 10:20-30. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

JOHNNY CHAN 2, 11296 Montgomery Rd., Symmes Twp., (513) 489-2388. Szechuan, Hunan and Cantonese cuisine. Dinner \$8.95-\$21.95. Lunch buffet, sushi bar, banquet menu. Full bar. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

LU LU'S NOODLES, 135 W. Kemper Rd., Springdale, (513) 671-9494. Specializes in Asian noodles: from Hong Kong to Vietnamese. \$4.75-\$8.75. Nonsmoking. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat. Check or cash.

MOY MOY'S, 9797 Montgomery Rd., Montgomery, (513) 792-9779. Kim Moy offers stir-fries, low-fat entrées, vegetarian items and daily lunch specials. \$5-\$11. Nonsmoking. Delivery. Lunch Mon-Sat, dinner seven days. MCC.

P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO, 2633 Edmondson Rd., Norwood, (513) 531-4567; 9453 Civic Center Blvd., West Chester, (513) 779-5555. Upscale yet casual Chinese. Entrées include garlic noodles, orange peel shrimp, Szechuan chicken chow fun and mongolian beef. \$7-\$18. Full bar. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DC, DS.

SHANGHAI MAMA'S, 216 E. Sixth St., downtown, (513) 241-7777. 1920 style noodle shop is open for late night dining until 3 am. Fri & Sat. Noodle bowls, rice bowls, Shanghai flatbread. \$5-\$10. Full bar. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat. MCC.

UNCLE YIP'S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT, 7275-A Dixie Hwy., Fairfield, (513) 942-6512. Contemporary Asian cuisine. Lobster, steak, poached

salmon and chicken. \$9-\$21. Full bar. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC.

eclectic

AIOLI, 700 Elm St., downtown, (513) 929-0525. Contemporary seasonal cuisine. Sandwiches (crab cake with Asian slaw) and salads for lunch (\$5-\$11), dinner entrées like pumpkin seed-crusted seared tuna, \$15-\$26. Full bar. Lunch Tues-Fri, dinner Tues-Sat. MCC.

BEEHIVE TAVERN, 101 W. Riverside Dr., Augusta, (606) 756-2202. Eclectic menu with an emphasis on Caribbean and Spanish dishes in a 200-year-old house overlooking the Ohio River \$11.50-\$22. Children half price. Reservations suggested. Lunch Wed-Sat, dinner Wed-Sun. MCC, DS, DC.

BELLA, 600 Walnut St., downtown, (513) 721-7100. Italian and Mediterranean fusion cuisine. \$17-\$29. In-house pastry kitchen and bi-level bar with waterfall. Extensive wine list. Private mezzanine available for special events. Located next to the Aronoff Center. Live jazz Sun. Reservations accepted. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner seven days. MCC.

BOCA, 3200 Madison Rd., Oakley, (513) 542-2022. Two dining rooms with different experiences: the Trattoria offers an a la carte menu for under \$20 and the formal dining room has options from the prix fixe or grand tasting menus. Prix Fixe menu offers three courses for \$45 or four courses for \$57. The grand tasting menu is from six to eight courses for \$85, or with wine pairings \$135. Full bar. Extensive wine list. Prix Fixe/Grand Tasting dining room by reservation only. Trattoria is on first come basis. Dinner Tues-Sat. MCC. ★

THE BONBONERIE, 2030 Madison Rd., O'Bryonville, (513) 321-3399. Tea room. Serves scones, light lunch of soups and sandwiches (tuna, vegetarian or focaccia). Afternoon tea. Breakfast & lunch Mon-Sat. MC, V.

BRONTE BISTRO, 2692 Madison Rd. (inside Joseph-Beth Booksellers), Norwood, (513) 396-8966. Offers pastas, unique salads, sandwiches and soups, vegetarian items, daily baked goods, \$5.50-\$153, plus desserts and an espresso/wine bar and beer. Children's menu. Breakfast, lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, Sun brunch and dinner. MCC, DS.

THE CELESTIAL STEAKHOUSE, 1011 Celestial St., Mr. Adams, (513) 241-4455. Offers menu of eclectic dishes like rack of rabbit, fresh seafood, steaks, as well as a raw bar. Jazz in Incline Lounge Fri & Sat. Entrées \$18-\$48. Full bar. Extensive wine list. Valet parking. Reservations suggested. Dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

CHEZ NORA, 530 Main St., Covington, (859) 491-8027. In a turn-of-the-century building. Pasta, seafood and salads, dinner specials. \$6-\$25. Full bar. Third floor jazz club and rooftop terrace, live music Wed-Sun. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

GATEHOUSE TAVERNE, at the Drawbridge Inn, 1-75 at Buttermilk Pk., Ft. Mitchell, (859) 341-3800. Medieval-themed fine dining. Prime rib, BBQ ribs and seafood. \$17-\$26. Dinner Wed-Sun. MCC.

HABIT'S CAFE, 3036 Madison Rd., Oakley, (513) 631-8367. Pub setting. Full menu includes chicken wings, ostrich, pork chops, salads, nachos and their famous potato rags. \$6-\$10. Daily specials. Full bar. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner seven days. MC, V.

HONEY, 4034 Hamilton Ave., Northside, (513) 541-4300. Eclectic menu includes homemade creole



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meatloaf and lime and vanilla-bean cured salmon, \$10-\$30. Lunch & dinner Tues.-Sat. MCC.

INDIGO CASUAL GOURMET CAFE, 2053 Dixie Hwy., Ft. Mitchell, (859) 331-4339; 2637 Erie Ave., Hyde Park, (513) 921-9952. Popular for innovative pizzas, pastas, salads, vegetarian entrées, \$5-\$18. Outdoor dining in warm weather. Reservations accepted for large parties during lunch. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

JEAN PAUL'S PARADISO, 6732 Clough Pke., Anderson Twp., (513) 231-2780. Excellent homemade carryout includes pizzas, sandwiches, pastas, soups and salads. \$5-\$11. Indoor dining limited. Lunch & dinner Mon.-Sat. MCC.

JEAN PAUL'S PLEASURES, 6740 Clough Pke., Anderson Twp., (513) 231-8100. Catering services and made-from-scratch bakery items featuring cherry pie and french pastries. \$3-\$11. Breakfast

Tues.-Sat. MCC.

KALDI'S, 1204 Main St., Over-the-Rhine, (513) 241-3070. Features sandwiches, salads, light entrées, specialty coffees and desserts. \$6-\$7.99. Live music. Full bar. Lunch & dinner Mon.-Sat. MCC.

KONA BISTRO, 3012 Madison Rd., Oakley, (513) 842-5662. Smashed salmon salad, an indian stuffed burrito, grilled ribeye steak over black beans and rice. Also features a number of vegetarian items. \$7.50-\$13. Vegetarian options, Carry-out, Children's menu, Non-Smoking, Full bar, Wine list. Reservations for large parties. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC.

MANNA, 633 Main St., downtown, (513) 241-8343. Vegetarian deli with table service and carryout. Health-conscious menu includes sandwiches, side dishes and desserts. Lunch Mon.-Fri. MCC, DS.

MOKKA, 527 York St., Newport, (859) 581-3700.



fine dining

Pie Therapy

Give up your therapist. Try Martha instead. She's waitress, pie maker, and one of the optimists-in-residence at the **SPARE TIME GRILL**. The smile is honest, like everything here. Three sides are picture windows, so you can actually see your food. With a counter and 19 stools, you're close enough to warn the cook to make those eggs hard and close enough to the register to rub a few lottery tickets while you wait. Somebody won with a ticket from the Spare Time last week. Well, that's what you'll hear. The optimism has rubbed off on the patrons.

You'd expect comfort food from a happy place. This is pretty much the same fare they've served since 1958. If it can be grilled or deep-fried, it's probably on the menu. The Spare Burger (double-decker) and a side of fries hot from the fryer are a good place to start. Or try the country ham and eggs. The biscuits and gravy draw fans all the way from Cynthiana, and there's nothing more comforting than a warm cup of chili. Spare Time's peach pie is most therapeutic: It's more pie than peach, with a crust that's never left on the plate. When a dispirited customer slumps in the door, he gets the same rousing "How are ya?" as everybody else. And if he whimpers, "They repossessed my truck," he can expect a smile from his waitress and a "You never did like that truck, did you?" A slice of pie will appear, and there will be one less gloomy guy asking his doctor if Prozac is right for him. • **J. KEVIN WOLFE**

FYI Spare Time Grill, 7808 Alexandria Pke., Alexandria, (859) 635-5542. Mon.-Sat 6-2, Sun 8-2.

Small cafe featuring Mokka french toast, frittatas, homemade soup, sandwiches and salads. Sun room and courtyard weather permitting. Breakfast & lunch seven days 9-2, MC, V.

MY THREE CHEFS, 700 W. Pete Ross Way, downtown, (513) 684-0242. Typical waffle house dining, eggs, bacon, and pancakes, \$4.25-\$7.95. Catering and personal chef. Reservations accepted. Breakfast & lunch Mon-Fri. MCC, DS.

MYRA'S DIONYSUS, 121 Calhoun St., Clifton, (513) 961-1578. Eclectic menu includes Middle Eastern, Indonesian, Cuban specialties, \$3-\$7.50. Vegetarian dishes. Eight fresh soups daily. Tables outside during warm weather. Beer & wine. Lunch Mon-Sat, dinner seven days. MC, V.

ONE, 202 W. Main St., Mason, (513) 336-0042. Re-defined modern American cuisine featuring fish, pasta, and steaks. \$5.50-\$29.50. Carryout. Reservations accepted. Dinner Tues-Sat. MCC, DS.

PHO PARIS, 3235A Madison Rd., Oakley, (513) 871-1234. Unique blend of French and Vietnamese cuisine: Foie Gras paired with a spring roll, five-spiced salmon, pumpkin crème brûlée \$7-\$29. Full bar, non-smoking, wine list. Reservations recommended. Lunch Mon-Fri, Dinner Mon-Sun. MCC, DS.

POPPIES DELI, 819 Elm St., downtown, (513) 421-9888. Small shop with creative, gourmet sandwiches, soups and salads. \$4-\$7.30. Early morning coffee and muffins. Carryout. Lunch Mon-Fri. MC, V.

THE QUARTER BISTRO, 6904 Wooster Pke., Mariemont, (513) 271-5400. Creative eclectic American cuisine such as tuna and smoked scallop "martini" appetizer and penne pasta with veal meatballs \$16-\$26. Full bar. Reservations accepted. Dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC. ★

ROCK BOTTOM RESTAURANT & BREWERY, 10 Fountain Square, downtown, (513) 621-1588. Eclectic menu features brown ale chicken, pastas, pizzas, \$9-\$19. Children's menu. Full bar features handcrafted ales. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

RONDOS, 3234 Harrison Ave., Westwood, (513) 662-3222. Seasonal ingredients and "current classics" at this west side bistro from Chef Ron Wise. Oven-roasted sea bass, chicken Marsala and bread pudding. \$13-\$22. Reservations accepted. Dinner Tues-Sat. MCC.

SALT OF THE EARTH, 4760 Red Bank Expy., Madisonville, (513) 272-3650. Gourmet cooking supply store also cooks up sandwiches and a variety of eclectic home-style entrées like teriyaki salmon. Most entrées priced by weight, \$5-\$10. Dine in or carryout. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat. MCC.

SLIMS, 4046 Hamilton Ave., Northside, (513) 681-6500. Art gallery cum restaurant serves eclectic dishes using the freshest of ingredients. Three-course prix fixe menu, \$28. Dine in or carryout. Dinner Wed-Sat. Puerto Rican-style lechon asado Sun brunch 10-12:30, 1-4 pm (includes roast pork, rice, beans, etc., \$12.50). Cash or check only. ★

TELLER'S OF HYDE PARK, 2710 Erie Ave., Hyde Park, (513) 321-4721. Eclectic menu, including tapas, pastas, Pacific Rim and Mediterranean dishes, sandwiches. \$9-\$24. Children's menu. Outdoor dining. Full bar includes extensive wine list plus 100 beers (30 on tap). Lunch & dinner seven days, Sun brunch. MCC.

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TINKS CAFE, 3410 Telford Ave., Clifton, (513) 961-6500. Sophisticated Southern cuisine, \$42-\$25. Full bar. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner seven days. Sun brunch. MCC. ★

TOUSEY HOUSE, 5963 Jefferson St., Burlington, (859) 689-2000. Upscale, creative cuisine with a hint of Southern flair. Menu changes seasonally. Three-course prix fixe dinner, \$48. Full bar. Dinner Thurs-Sat. MCC.

VITOR'S BISTRO, 3156 Harrison Ave., Westwood, (513) 481-5333. French toast and crepes; roasted red pepper lobster wrap and three daily soups; fine dining dinner on weekends. Breakfast & lunch under \$10, dinner \$16-\$25. Fri & Sat wine corking \$5. Reservations Fri & Sat only. Breakfast, lunch & dinner Tues-Sun. MCC.

French

CHATEAU POMIJE WINERY & BANQUET FACILITY, 25043 Jacobs Rd., Guilford, Indiana, (800) 791-9463. Dine in an 18th century chateau surrounded by 75 acres of vines. Stuffed porcini mushroom, pork tenderloin, fresh fish. \$14-\$21. Full bar. Reservations suggested. Brunch Sun, dinner Wed-Sun. MC, V, DS.

JEAN-ROBERT, 413 Vine St., downtown, (513) 621-1465. Casual bistro from Jean-Robert de Cavel, French classics accompanied by daily specials, soups, salads and sandwiches. Lunch \$9-\$15, dinner \$17-\$26. Reservations recommended. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC. ★

JEAN-ROBERT AT PIGALL'S, 127 W. Fourth St., downtown, (513) 721-1345. French-American

cuisine in a modern Parisian setting. Three course prix fixe menu, \$69. Five-course menu gourmand, \$129 or \$92 (no wine). Taxes, valet parking and gratuities included. Business-like attire recommended. Reservations required. Lunch Thurs & Fri, dinner Tues-Sat. MCC. ★

LA PETITE FRANCE, 3177 Glendale-Milford Rd., Evendale, (513) 733-8383. Bistro serves French cuisine like veal sweatbreads in puff pastry and filet mignon with morel sauce, \$17-\$26. Full bar. Lunch Mon-Sat, dinner Mon-Sa. MCC.

german/hungarian

HOEBRAUHAUS, 200 E. Third St., Newport, (859) 491-7200. First American location for the legendary Munich beer hall. Bavarian cuisine, Oompah-pah bands, and an outdoor Bier Garden, all awash in kegs of brew. Children's menu. Reservations accepted except Fri & Sat after 4pm. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

THE IRON SKILLET, 6900 Valley Ave., Newtown, (513) 561-6776. Friendly neighborhood spot features Hungarian specialties: schnitzel, sauerbraten, veal cordon bleu, cabbage rolls. Lunch \$3.50-\$10, dinner \$10-\$24. Reservations for five or more. Lunch Tues-Sat, dinner Tues-Sun. DS, MC, V.

MECKLENBURG GARDENS, 302 E. University Ave., Corryville, (513) 221-5353. Serving German specialties: schnitzels, sausages, pastas, garlic soup. Plus the famous coffee-toffee black-bottom pecan pie. \$5.50-\$19. Full bar features beer garden. Live entertainment Wed (German night). Reservations

accepted. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat. MCC, DS.

greek/mediterranean

ANDY'S MEDITERRANEAN GRILLE, 906 Nassau St., Walnut Hills, (513) 281-9791. Lebanese and other Middle Eastern cuisine like kebabs, tabouli and falafels, \$12-\$25. Full bar, Lebanese wines and beers. Live music Thurs. Belly dancing Fri and Sat. Hookah smoking available. Weekend reservations recommended. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat. MCC.

CAFE ISTANBUL, One Levee Way, Newport, (859) 581-1777. The apex of Turkish cuisine amid a lush, upscale setting. Kebabs and lamb chops alongside shrimp casserole \$13-\$21. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC.

FLOYD'S, 127 Calhoun St., Mt. Auburn, (513) 221-2434. Owners Emile and Reine Sali offer Mediterranean specialties: dolmas, falafel, hummus and tabbouleh. Try the award-winning spit-roasted chicken marinated in Mediterranean spices, \$6-\$13. Lunch & dinner Tues-Fri. MCC.

THE GOURMET ON BROADWAY, 32 N. Broadway, Lebanon, (513) 933-8377. Small, friendly spot serves salads, pita sandwiches, homemade breakfast breads and soups with Mediterranean touches. Plus gourmet coffees and teas. \$4.75-\$8.75. Breakfast & lunch. Mon-Sat. Cash.

MEJANA, 25 W. Sixth St., downtown, (513) 333-0660. Authentic Mediterranean/Middle Eastern cuisine includes lamb, chicken, vegetarian and seafood dishes, such as shish kebab, chicken



Pâté

Cabernet



Monet

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Just Desserts

VALENTINE'S DAY can be stressful—the candy, the flowers, the cards filled with heartfelt sentiments. Skip the headache-inducing rigrarole and just overdose on sweets with the one you love. Here are three area restaurants serving up something for the (chocolate) lover in you. —AIESHA D. LITTLE



BOX IT UP

CHOC SPOT

Daveed's at 934, 934 Hatch St., Mt. Adams, (513) 721-2665.

THE DISH

Take in a skyline view from this hilltop restaurant and at the end of the night, pastry chef Betsy LaSorella will send you on your way with a box of "Sweet Nothings," including red hot chocolate bark, raspberry-filled ganache, French fruit candy, and a heart-shaped meringue. \$8-\$12.

SWEET NOUGHTS

"Liz [Cook, co-owner] and I tried to come up with different textures while keeping with traditional flavors—raspberry and strawberries—that are usually represented with Valentine's Day," LaSorella says.

TOP IT OFF

Orchids at Palm Court, in the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, 35 W. Fifth St., downtown, (513) 421-9100.

A delightfully sinful dinner at this chic restaurant deserves an equally sinful dessert—and pastry chef Kathleen Kessler happily obliges. You and your honey can indulge in frozen passionfruit soufflés or a bittersweet chocolate truffle torte, among other things. Whatever your choice, Kessler's got you covered. \$9.

"Each offers extremely different nuances and flavors, which add to the enjoyment of the dessert," Kessler says. "I think that the desserts on the Valentine's menu offer something for everyone."

DO YOU FONDUE?

South Beach Grill at the Waterfront, 14 Pete Rose Pier, Covington, (859) 581-1414.

On Valentine's Day, executive chef Jimmy Gibson wants your loved one to treat you like a newborn baby... sort of. Feed Gibson's chocolate fondue to that special someone and watch them melt. Served with an assortment of skewered chocolate truffles and strawberries, this concoction is made with Navan, Grand Marnier's vanilla cognac. \$9.

"This is designed to be an interactive dessert," says Gibson. "When you feed someone, that's a very personal thing, and for Valentine's Day, you should do something personal."

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Feb. 4 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Chef Donna Lapasky Hands On \$59

Easy Comfort Food Feb. 8 6 - 9 p.m.

Chef Arthur Leech Hands On \$59

All You Need is Chocolate: Desserts for Your Valentine

Feb. 9 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Bill Sande, owner, Marble Hill Chocolatier Hands On \$59

Low Stress, High Returns: Valentines Day Dinner

Feb. 10 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Chef Lily Burdall Hands On \$59

Chemistry of Food and Wine Feb. 15 6 - 9 p.m.

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registered dietitian Laurie Schrand Hands On \$59

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Celebrating Spring: It's More than Lamb and Asparagus

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shawarma and falafel. \$6.25-\$28. During nice weather hookahs are available for smoking outside. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

PHOENIX MEDITERRANEAN BAR AND GRILL, 10780 Montgomery Rd., Montgomery, (513) 489-7995. Serves kebabs, Vegetable Ghaliba, and the Mezza sample platter. \$7-\$21. Lunch Mon-Sat, dinner Mon-Sun. MCC.

ROMBES RESTAURANT, 10375 Kenwood Rd., Blue Ash, (513) 891-4170, (513) 793-6368 for a list of daily specials. American and Greek dishes. Gyros, Greek salads, burgers, soups and sandwiches. \$3.75-\$7.75, plus daily specials. Breakfast & lunch Mon-Sat, dinner Mon-Fri. DS, MC, V.

SEBASTIAN'S, 5209 Glenway Ave., Price Hill, (513) 471-2100. Serves gyros, spanakopita, tiropita, special seasoned fries, Greek salads. \$4.25-\$7. Grilled cheese and hot dogs for kids. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat. Cash.

home-style

ANCHOR GRILL, 438 Pike St., Covington, (859) 431-9498. Neighborhood hangout. Serves Glier's goetta, chicken, breakfast all day. \$3.50-\$12. Open 24 hours seven days. Cash.

BUCKHEAD MOUNTAIN GRILL, 10375 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, (859) 491-7333. Chicken wings, potato skins, ribs and meatloaf in ski-lodge setting. \$8-\$18. Call-ahead seating. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

CAMP WASHINGTON CHILI, Colerain Ave. & Hopkins St., Camp Washington, (513) 541-0061. Neighborhood chili parlor serves double-deckers, salads, \$3.50-\$6. Open 24 hours. Closed Sun. Cash.

THE ECHO, 3510 Edwards Rd., Hyde Park, (513) 321-2816. Low-fat and healthy items, plus daily dinner specials. \$2-\$12. Children's menu. Breakfast & lunch seven days, dinner Thurs-Sat. MCC.

GREEN DERBY, 846 York St., Newport, (859) 431-8740. Home-style beef liver, lean pork chop and halibut. Specialty is grilled, baked, fried or blackened seafood, \$8-\$15. Plus Green Derby salad with hot bacon dressing. Desserts made from scratch. Full bar. Reservations suggested. Open at 11 am seven days, breakfast, lunch & dinner menus. DS, MC, V.

HAMBURGER MARY'S, 909 Vine St., downtown, (513) 381-6279. Flamboyant chain restaurant with hot-pink walls and posters of Joan Crawford. Serves hamburgers, sandwiches and salads, \$6.25-\$10.95. Full bar. Reservations accepted. Lunch Mon-Sat, dinner seven days, Sun brunch. MCC, DS.

HATHAWAY'S COFFEE SHOP, Carew Tower Arcade, downtown, (513) 621-1322. A downtown mainstay. Serves breakfast all day, plus lunch entrées, sandwiches, salads, soups, \$3-\$6. Sodas and shakes. Breakfast & lunch Mon-Sat. MCC.

HITCHING POST, 2715 Madison Rd., Hyde Park, (513) 871-9201. Home-style cooking includes "world's best" fried chicken and cult-inspiring pies. \$5.25-\$9.50. Breakfast, lunch & dinner Tues-Sun. DS, MC, V.

HONEYBAKED HAM CO. & COFFEE, 12170 Mason-Montgomery Rd., Deerfield Twp., (513) 583-8792. Soups, salads and sandwiches featuring artisan breads, pastries and espresso drinks, \$2-\$6. Breakfast, lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, Sun brunch. MCC, DS.

PROUD ROOSTER RESTAURANT, 345 Ludlow Ave., Clifton, (513) 281-4965; 5709 Glenway Ave., Western Hills, (513) 451-1142. Small, hole-in-the-wall setting. Offers soups, sandwiches, chicken and roast beef. \$4-\$7. Breakfast & lunch seven days (dinner at Western Hills). Cash.

RON'S ROOST, 3835 Race Rd., Bridgetown, (513) 574-0222. Fried chicken, Oktoberfest sauerbraten, and hot bacon slaw, plus steaks, chops, and ribs in a cozy neighborhood atmosphere. \$5-\$14. Full bar. Dine in or carryout. No holiday or weekend evening reservations. Breakfast Sun, lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

SKYLINE CHILI, 254 E. Fourth St., downtown, (513) 241-4848; 5005 Cornell Rd., Blue Ash, (513) 489-8488; 290 Ludlow Ave., Clifton, (513) 221-2142; 617 W. Third St., Covington, (859) 261-8474; 1007 Vine St., downtown, (513) 721-4715. Three- to five-way chili with hand-trimmed beef, no preservatives. More than 81 locations. MCC, G.

WHAT'S FOR DINNER, 3009 O'Bryan St., O'Bryanville, (513) 321-4404. Eat in or carry out, this deli serves casseroles, salads, sandwiches and desserts, \$7-\$18. Lunch & dinner Mon-Fri, Lunch Sat. Cash.

ZIPPER'S CAFE, 1036 Dela Ave., Mt. Lookout, (513) 871-9876. Family place with chili, burgers, fries, chicken sandwiches. Regulars ask for the "Zipperburger." \$2.50-\$6.25. Full bar. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

indian

AKASH INDIA, 24, E. Sixth St., downtown, (513) 723-1300. Specializes in Indian cuisine: tandoori chicken, curries and vegetable entrées. \$4-\$12. Lunch buffet with 10 items, \$7.99. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

AMBAR INDIA, 350 Ludlow Ave., Clifton, (513) 281-7000. Features Indian cuisine, including chicken tandoori, curried and vegetable entrées. \$7-\$14. Beer & wine. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

ANAND INDIA, 10890 Reading Rd., Sharonville, (513) 554-0400. Northern Indian cuisine. Lamb, chicken, fish and vegetarian entrées, plus tandoori oven dishes. \$7-\$13.50. Lunch buffet \$6.99. Reservations for five or more. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

BABA INDIA RESTAURANT, 3120 Madison Rd., Oakley, (513) 321-1600. Same menu as Ambar in Clifton, including chicken tandoori, curried and vegetable entrées. \$8-\$15. Beer & wine, liquor, lunch buffet \$8. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

CUMIN, 3514 Erie Ave., Hyde Park, (513) 871-8714. Not your typical curry dishes. Modern variations of traditional Indian cuisine include tandoori lamb chops, duck sooley and kela pakora. \$9-\$18. Beer & wine. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

MAYURA, 3201 Jefferson Ave., Corryville, (513) 221-7125. Chicken tandoori, spicy samosas, curried fish, vegetable dishes. \$7-\$15. Full bar. Lunch buffet Tues-\$7 (\$7.50), dinner Tues-Sun. MCC.

SITAR, 4270 Hunt Rd., Blue Ash, (513) 793-7487. Specializes in South & North Indian cuisine, plus regional specials. \$7-\$15. Full bar. Weekend reservations recommended. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC.

TANDOORI INDIA RESTAURANT, 8702 Market Place Ln., Montgomery, (513) 793-7484. Attractive setting. Indian cuisine: tandoori chicken, boti kebab, samosas and seafood. \$7-\$15. Full bar, lunch buffet \$6.50. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, MCC, DS.

UDIPJI, 7633 Reading Rd., Roselawn, (513) 821-2021. Vegetarian South Indian cuisine. Dosas, utthappam, pulavas and curries. Lunch buffet \$7. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner Wed-Mon, MC, V.

italian

ANTONIO'S RISTORANTE ITALIANO, 7165 Liberty Center Dr., West Chester, (513) 735-7242. Fine dining in award-winning restaurant from Tennessee. Made-from-scratch Italian, including nutty chicken Marsala, cooked in open kitchen. \$12-\$24. Reservations suggested. Dinner Mon-Sat, MCC, DS.

BARRERIS'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 4111 Webster Ave., Deer Park, (513) 793-2340. Features fresh fish, veal, steak, \$18-\$42. Extensive wine list. Full bar. Weekend reservations suggested. Dinner Mon-Sat, MCC, DS, DC.

BELLA LUNA, 4632 Eastern Ave., Linwood, (513) 871-5862. Traditional and updated Italian dishes surrounded by fun and quirky decor, \$13.95-\$24.95. Half-price wine night Wed. Reservations accepted. Dinner Tues-Sun, MCC, DS.

BETTA'S, 1026 Delta Ave., Mt. Lookout, (513) 871-2233. Italian food cooked by owner Elizabeth DeLuca. Meat cannelloni, manicotti, cacciatore, chicken cutlet Milanese, \$8.50-\$14. Plus cod Italiano and eggplant specialties, salads and sandwiches. Wine and beer. Reservations for five or more. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, MC, V.

BETTA'S ITALIAN OVEN, 3764 Montgomery Rd., Norwood, (513) 631-OVEN [6836]. Will DeLuca branches out from his parents' Beta's Italian Cuisine in Mt. Lookout. Meat cannelloni, manicotti, cacciatore, chicken cutlet Milanese, \$8.50-\$14. Pizzas and calzones in a wood-fired oven. Reservations accepted. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat, MC, V.

BRAVO CUCINA ITALIANA, 12110 Montgomery Rd., Symmes Twp., (513) 583-0583; 9436 Waterfront Dr., West Chester, (513) 759-9398. Large dining room with exhibition kitchen. Serves pastas, wood-grilled specialties (chicken, pork chops, salmon), fresh fish, steaks and chops. Plus wood-fired pizzas, insalata, panini. From \$7.50. Full bar. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

BRIOS TUSCAN GRILLE, One Levee Way, Newport, (859) 431-0900. Tuscan-style Italian food, specialty pastas, steaks & chops. \$11-\$25. Outdoor dining, valet parking. Full bars inside and outside. Reservations accepted. Lunch & dinner seven days, Sat & Sun brunch. MCC, DS.

BUCA DI BEPPO, 2635 Edmondson Rd., Norwood, (513) 396-POPE [7673]. Family-style Italian food in kitschy surroundings. Pizzas, pastas, eggplant parmesana, \$8-\$20. Full bar. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL, 2899 Dixie Hwy., Crestview Hills, (859) 344-6163; 152 Merten Dr., Fairfield Twp., (513) 339-0900. Features pastas, pizzas and grilled specialties. \$8-\$19. Reservations accepted. Lunch Sun, dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

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Below is an excerpt from this month's DINE review...

Mambo Gumbo

Kreepy Pine on the Bayou provides Southern comfort
By Donna Covett
Photographs by Lemos Photography

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DINE

FERRARI'S LITTLE ITALY, 7677 Goff Terrace, Madeira, (513) 272-2220. Family-style dining. Regional Italian specialties such as seafood canneloni, pesto salmon, spaghetti Mediterranean, eggplant parmesan, \$8-\$17. Lunch entrées, \$7-\$10. Children's menu. Outdoor dining. Full bar. Weekend reservations recommended. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

GERMANO'S RESTAURANT, 9415 Montgomery Rd., Montgomery, (513) 794-1155. Fresh seafood, chicken, veal, pasta, \$14-\$23. Desserts include tiramisu and fresh raspberry pie. Extensive wine list. Full bar. Reservations suggested. Lunch Tues-Fri, dinner Tues-Sat. MCC.

JOHNNY CARINO'S, 7691 Voice of American Center Dr., West Chester, (513) 779-5326. Traditional Italian food including pastas, lasagna, and ravioli. Carryout, catering available. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner seven days. MCC.

KARLO'S BISTRO ITALIA, 4911 S. Houston Rd., off Turway Rd., Florence, (859) 282-8282; 275 Picatiora Dr., Springfield, (513) 671-0123. Spacious dining room, nice bar in back. Offers pastas, pizzas and specialties. \$9-\$16. Desserts, \$4.95. Children's menu. Patio. Full bar. Reservations for parties 15 and more. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat. MCC, DS.

LAROSA'S, 2141 Boudin Ave., Westwood, (513) 347-1111. Over 50 area locations. Entire menu available for delivery. Call (513) 347-1111 (Batesville, Ind. Or Dayton area - toll free (877) 347-1111) or order online at www.larosas.com for pick up or delivery from any pizzeria. Click "Pizzeria Locator" for locations, directions and hours. MCC, DS.

MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY, 7875 Montgomery Rd., Kenwood, (513) 974-0670. A menu not limited to only pasta with numerous veal, steak and chicken entrées, although the homemade gnocchi (ricotta pasta finished with pomodoro cream, vodka and rose garlic) comes highly recommended. Carryout, large banquet area accommodating 20-170 guests, wine list, full bar, piano bar. Reservations recommended. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

NICOLA'S RISTORANTE, 1420 Sycamore St., Over-the-Rhine, (513) 721-6200. Northern Italian cuisine in a renovated incline car barn. Bruschetta, calamari al pomodoro, osso buco. Full bar. Reservations suggested. Dinner Mon-Sat. MCC, DS.

OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY, 6320 S. Gilmore Ave., Fairfield, (513) 942-6620. A family favorite featuring a variety of pastas. \$6-\$19. Full bar. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

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PRIMAVISTA, at the Queen's Tower, 810 Mason Pl., Price Hill, (513) 251-6467. Great view of the city. Entrées include veal, fresh fish, seafood, lamb, steaks and pastas. \$20-\$36. Full bar. Reservations suggested. Dinner seven days. MCC, DC.

SCOTTI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 919 Vine St., downtown, (513) 721-9484. Italian home cooking, including 23 veal and beef dishes, 25 pastas, steaks, osso buco, lasagna. Dinners from \$16. Wine. Lunch Tues-Fri, dinner Tues-Sat. MC, V.

TRATTORIA ROMA, 609 Walnut St., downtown, (513) 723-0220. Serves authentic antipasto, pasta,

beef, chicken and veal. \$15-\$25. Full bar. Reservations accepted. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat. MCC, DS, DC.

VITO'S CAFE, 654 Highland Ave., Ft. Thomas, (859) 442-9444. Local singers perform arias while delivering steamy dishes of pasta and osso buco. Full bar. Reservations suggested. Dinner Wed-Sun. MCC.

japanese

AOI, One Levee Way, Newport, (859) 431-9400. Upscale and elegant from the typical Newport on the Levee offering. Regulars include eel nigiri, edamame and miso soup. Entrées \$14-\$25. Wine list, limited carryout menu. Reservations recommended. Lunch Tues-Fri, dinner Tues-Sun. MCC, DC.

JO AN JAPANESE RESTAURANT, 3940 Olympic Blvd., Erlanger, (859) 746-2634. Authentic Japanese cuisine: sashimi, tempuras, yakimono and other delicacies in upscale setting. Wine & beer, Japanese sake. Lunch \$8-\$15, dinner from \$20. Reservations suggested. Lunch & dinner Tues-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat. MCC, DC.

KO-SHO JAPANESE RESTAURANT, 215 E. Ninth St., downtown, (513) 665-4950. Chef Yukio serves Japanese dishes, including sashimi, sukiyaki and tempuras. From \$13. Full bar. Reservations suggested. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

MEI JAPANESE RESTAURANT, 8608 Market Place Ln., Montgomery, (513) 891-6880. Traditional Japanese dishes including full sushi bar. Sashimi, tempuras, chicken katsu and noodle bowls. \$8-\$20. Carryout. Reservations accepted. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner seven days. MCC, DS. ★

SAKE BOMB, 3672 Erie Ave., Hyde Park, (513) 533-0555. Asian-influenced menu with sushi, rolls, and entrées including chicken teriyaki. Reservations accepted. Dinner seven days, food served until 2 a.m. Tues-Sat and until midnight Sun & Mon. Carryout. MCC, DS.

korean

CHUNG KIWA KOREAN BARBECUE, 7800 Commerce Dr., Florence, (859) 525-9978. Korean specialties such as bulgogi (marinated thin strips of beef), kalbi (beef short ribs), and kimchi. Buffet of meats and seafood for grilling. All-you-can-eat buffet \$24.99. A few vegetarian choices and salads. Reservations accepted. Dinner seven days. MCC, DS.

KOREAN RIVERSIDE RESTAURANT, 512 Madison Ave., Covington, (859) 291-1484. Authentic Korean food: bulgogi, kimchi, seafood dishes, \$12-\$30. Weekend reservations recommended. Lunch Tues-Fri, dinner Tues-Sun. MCC.

MOON GARDEN KOREAN & CHINESE RESTAURANT, 20 Donald Dr., Fairfield, (513) 829-7393. Korean and Chinese cuisine: Kalbi, bulgogi, kimchi. \$7-\$15. Daily specials. Beer & wine. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat. DS, MC, V.

mexican/ southwestern

ACAPULCO, 985 Lila Ave., Camp Dennison, (513) 831-4661; 5953 Boymel Dr., Fairfield, (513) 874-5777. Authentic Mexican food in friendly setting. Shrimp, chicken and steak fajitas, sopapillas. \$3-

\$15. Children's menu. Full bar. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC.

CANCUN MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 6383 Glenway Ave., in Western Bowl, Bridgetown, (513) 574-1639; 11930 Hamilton Ave., Pleasant Run, (513) 851-6310. Flexible, friendly staff offers generous portions. Chimichangas, carne asada, chicken flautas. \$6-\$11. Children's menu. Full bar. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC.

HABANERO, 358 Ludlow Ave., Clifton, (513) 961-6800. Specializes in Latin American burritos. Try the Mad Max fish burrito or calypso chicken with pineapple almond salsa. \$4-\$7. Children's menu. Acoustic music. Wine & beer. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC, DS, DC.

LA MEXICANA, 642 Monmouth St., Newport, (859) 291-3520. Authentic tacos, burritos and atmosphere in this restaurant/grocery. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC.

MARGARITAS, 95 Cincinnati Mills Dr., Forest Park, (513) 671-5777; 8600 Beechmont Ave., Anderson Twp., (513) 474-4154; 214 E. Sixth St., downtown, (513) 241-1223; 28 W. Fourth St., Tower Place, downtown, (513) 241-2313; 3218 Dixie Hwy., Erlanger, (859) 492-9792; 9925 Mt. Zion Rd., Florence, (859) 594-4444. Authentic Mexican dishes, occasional mariachi band. Full bar features 12 flavors of Margaritas. Entrées \$8-\$15. \$8-\$21. Children's menu. Full bar. Multiple locations. Lunch & dinner Mon-Sat (some locations seven days). MCC, ★

on the river

CHART HOUSE, 405 Riverboat Row, Newport, (859) 261-0300. Menu favorites include New England-style clam chowder, prime rib and Australian lobster. \$15.99-\$39.99. Reservations suggested. Dinner seven days. MCC.

FOUR SEASONS RESTAURANT, 4609 Kellogg Ave., Columbia-Tusculum, (513) 871-1820. Floating restaurant serves fresh seafood in nautical decor. Barbecued ribs, steaks, chicken. \$13-\$29. Popular seafood buffet Fri & Sat (October thru April). Full bar. Reservations accepted. Dinner Tues-Sun, Sat & Sun lunch. MCC, DC, DS.

MONTGOMERY INN AT THE BOATHOUSE, 925 Eastern Ave., downtown, (513) 721-7427. Famous for barbecuee choice pork loin-backs, with Montgomery Inn sauce, plus chicken, New York sirloin, pork chops. \$9-\$30. Carryout, Children's menu. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner seven days. MCC.

pizza

DEWEY'S PIZZA, 265 Hosea Ave., Clifton, (513) 221-0400; One Levee Way, Suite 3100, Newport, (859) 431-9700; 3014 Madison Rd., Oakley, (513) 731-7755; 11138 Montgomery Rd., Symmes Twp., (513) 247-9955. Try the Green Lantern pizza with minced garlic, artichokes, mushrooms, pesto and goat cheese. Also calzones, salads and a selection of wines and microbrews. \$6-\$19. Reservations for six or more. Lunch Mon-Sat, dinner Sun (Sun lunch in Newport). MCC, ★

POMODORI'S PIZZERIA & TRATTORIA, 121 W. McMillan St., Clifton Heights, (513) 861-0080; 7880 Remington Rd., Montgomery, (513) 794-0080. Pizzas from wood-fired Italian oven, including deep-dish and Sicilian pizzas, sandwiches, salads, pastas, \$3.50-\$20. Beer, wines by the glass or bottle. Dine in. Lunch & dinner seven days. MCC.



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Page-Turner

This month, the public library kicks off On the Same Page, its city-wide reading project. Flip through your knowledge of this information hub. 

ANSWERS 1. Free & Public (Orange Frazer Press); John Fleischman 2. 2002 3. Subscription library 4. A towering atrium with a skylight 5. 9,574,449
6. The Alleghenies 7. Woodie Garber B. 542,527 9. Mark Haddon 10. 41

1 You'll find an overview of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County's first 150 years in, naturally, a book. Name it. **BONUS:** Who wrote it?

2 On the Same Page was founded in what year?

3 Back in 1802, an early PLCHC predecessor allowed only its shareholders—whose money bought books—to use the library's services. What type of library was this?

4 Today's main library shares a structural design element with the original 1874 library. Name it.

5 PLCHC is the seventh largest library in the U.S. How many volumes does it hold?

6 PLCHC is the oldest public library west of what mountain range?

7 In 1955, the library opened the first post-war main library in the U.S. What Cincinnati architect designed it?

8 More than twice its original size, how many square feet is the main library branch?

9 *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is On the Same Page's 2006 book selection. Who wrote it?

10 How many regional and branch locations does PLCHC operate throughout Hamilton County?

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